



Meeting "Horizontal Expert Group", 30 March 2017

The main conclusions of the meeting of the “Horizontal Expert Group”, held on 30 March 2017 in Brussels, are listed below.

- The meeting was attended by 50 people from 21 EU Member States and 6 different stakeholder organisations.
- A plenary session to gather input for the **REFIT process** of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 and Regulation (EC) 396/2005 was organised in the afternoon of Tuesday 29 March. This was followed by sessions in four Breakout Groups (BOGs). The four BOGs reported back to the HEG. Some overall conclusions, where all BOGs agreed, are:
 - Use *speciality* crops rather than minor crops.
 - National specific requirements should be removed (at least for minor uses).
 - Residue data from outside the EU is considered acceptable (comparable GAP and GLP).
 - MRL applications should be maximally extrapolated.
 - Trust between member States is required.
 - Data should be made available to all Member States.

There were different opinions on issues like an EU wide definition of ‘minor/major’ crop, coordination of Article 51 applications at EU-level, and EU wide authorisations for Article 51 extensions. The MUCF will prepare an overview of the conclusions of the BOGs. This report can be used as input of the MUCF to the REFIT process.

- As many of the practical issues that are covered in the **Guidance Document on Minor Uses** are linked to the new EUMUDA further work has been postponed until the launch of the new EUMUDA.
- The MUCF had prepared an initial proposal for the **long-term funding** of the Coordination Facility. The option to ask for contributions from Member States according to their population (equal to the voting system in the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed) was agreed during the meeting of the Minor Uses Steering Committee on 5th October 2016. The long-term funding strategy was presented during the first Stakeholder Advisory Forum of the MUCF, that took place on 25 January 2017 in Brussels. As all Member States will benefit from the work of the Coordination Facility, the MUCF will encourage financial commitments from all Member States. In due course, all Member States will be approached by the Coordination Facility for a **voluntary assessed contribution**.

- The next meeting of the HEG will be on 1 November 2017 in Dublin. The HEG will be back-to-back with the CEG F&V, CEG Seeds and CEG Ornamentals on 2 and 3 November. *Post meeting note: In addition, the CEG Tobacco will have its meeting also in Dublin on 3 November 2017.*
- A **meeting of the chairs** should already be organised before the summer. Issues to be discussed at that meeting are:
 - **EUMUDA:** access rights and confidentiality. It should be discussed which parts of EUMUDA are publicly accessible and which information (of projects) has restricted access (and by whom).
 - **Evaluation of participation in different CEGs/HEG.** The MUCF should develop clear rules on the composition of and the number of attendees in the Expert Groups.
 - **Final programme** of the ‘Dublin’ meetings (1 – 3 November).
- An overview of the **results of a questionnaire** that was circulated to all Member States with the purpose to identify how the minor uses work is organised in the different Member States was presented by the MUCF. The main conclusions are listed below:
 - Very good response rate to questionnaire: 75% of the MSs, and CH and NO.
 - MUCF encourages MS to participate to CEGs (and HEG).
 - MS should encourage all relevant stakeholders to apply for minor uses.
 - All MS should establish a reference list of minor uses and make it available.
 - Agreement for a harmonized EU definition for minor uses is needed.
 - The risk envelope approach should be used by all MS.
 - MS should set the fees for minor uses as low as possible.
 - The MUCF encourages some MS to better organise themselves for optimal coordination of the national and zonal work.
 - The MUCF encourages all relevant stakeholders to support data sharing and access.

A report on the outcome of this questionnaire to have a clear written document on the differences and similarities between Member States in the way they are dealing with the minor uses work will be prepared by the MUCF.

- According to Article 51(3) Member States may take **measures to facilitate or encourage the submission of applications** to extend the authorisation of already authorised plant protection products to minor uses. As regards these measures, the following points were raised by Member States:
 - Reduced or no fees.
 - To promote and assist applicants in applying for Article 51(3) extension, by means of a simplified application form, a special ‘minor uses’ contact point (‘helpdesk’) and/or specific information on websites.
 - Fast track or more ‘straight forward’ procedure, flexible timelines and/or simplified dossier (requirements).
 - To set priority in evaluation of applications containing minor uses.
 - To work close together with farmers’ organisations and growers’ groups.

- To encourage applicants to apply for as many minor uses as possible, to maximise extrapolation possibilities and to stimulate industry to put as many minor uses as possible on the label.
- To encourage Article 51 applications instead of Article 53 (emergency applications).
- To stimulate mutual recognition.
- To publish a yearly updated list of minor uses.
- To organise a specific committee or group at national level dealing with ‘minor uses’ issues (e.g. committee orphan uses in France).

It will be considered to include this information in the report to be prepared as outcome of the questionnaire on the ‘overview minor uses work in Member States’.

- As regards **minor use projects** and **zonal application**, the following points were noted:
 - An important tool to achieve optimisation of EU-wide minor use authorisations/solution within a reasonable timeline, is collaboration within the CEG’s on minor use projects.
 - The development of a new format for the dRR for minor uses (based on the DE draft), as well as the issue who would complete the dRR for minor uses, will be taken forward by the MUCF.
 - Member States should preferably follow the zonal procedure for Art. 51 applications and circulate every evaluation of a use/application for commenting to other Member States. Every decision/authorisation should then be accompanied by a dRR, to be uploaded on Circabc, as this will also facilitate Mutual Recognition.
 - As regards ‘communication’ the minor use needs and projects (limited information) are publicly accessible in EUMUDA. Detailed information about a project will be accessible to the project leader and participating Member States and stakeholders.

- As regards **renewal of authorisations**, the following points were noted:
 - According to the “Guidance Document on the Renewal of Authorisations according to Article 43” the applicant should provide a list of intended uses including a statement that no significant changes compared to previous authorisations (in the zone) exist. In this list minor uses should be taken up in the Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) separately. A significant amendment of the GAP should be accepted only when it is necessary to comply with changes in the assessment of the active substance (new endpoints, new guidance applied, conditions or restrictions in the renewal regulation).
 - Especially, when products contain more than one active substance (with subsequent evaluations/assessments of the PPP) and/or category 4 studies are needed, a possible extension for a minor use can be delayed considerably (product is ‘frozen’), and this is a disadvantage for minor uses.

- The presentation on the **new EUMUDA** in September meetings of CEGs and HEG has been followed by a trial and commenting phase in October/November. In November/December the ‘new’ EUMUDA has been revised based on comments received. A final discussion with chairs CEGs took place in January 2017. As a starting point for the list of minor use needs,

the (updated) table of IPM crop-pest needs as prepared by the C-IPM will be taken. The MUCF has done an online demonstration of the new EUMUDA in all CEGs meetings in March 2017. *Post meeting note: The 'new' EUMUDA has been launched on 28 June 2017.*

- The **C-IPM Eranet** finished at the end of 2016. A discussion took place on the role of the Co-ordination Facility and stakeholders in developing and promoting IPM solutions. Preferably, the Co-ordination Facility should clearly contribute to the development of non-chemical and IPM routes to solve minor use problems. The establishment of a platform under the MUCF umbrella to ensure optimal liaison with stakeholders and knowledge sharing activities, with a focus on IPM, was discussed. It was considered appropriate at this stage for the MUCF to contact Dir F, who is in charge of the implementation of the SUD, to explore a possible link with a new web-portal with IPM information from Member States. This web portal will contain links to Competent Authorities' websites, as well as national IPM guidelines and existing national risk indicators.
- The **Third Global Minor Uses Summit** (GMUS-3) will be organised in Montreal, Canada, 1-4 October 2017). The GMUS-3 will put greater emphasis on Policy Considerations that can help speciality crop growers around the world obtain access to safe and modern tools to produce their crops, and to promote trade among nations that is critical to providing food to the growing world population. The 2nd Global Minor Uses Priority Setting Workshop in Montreal will be linked to the GMUS-3. As regards the 2nd Global Minor Uses Priority Setting Workshop, an email to all member States related to the update of the 'table of needs' will be circulated.
- An **EPPO Workshop on integrated management of insect pests in oilseed rape** will be held on 20-22 September 2017 at the Julius Kühn-Institute (JKI) in Berlin. More information can be found on the EPPO website (<https://www.eppo.int/>).
- The **next meeting** of the Horizontal Expert Group will be organised on 1st November 2017 in Dublin. *Post meeting note: In addition, the CEG Tobacco will have its meeting also in Dublin on 3 November 2017.*