

>>> NEWSLETTER <<<

EUROPEAN MINOR USES COORDINATION FACILITY

Minor uses, major importance.



© pixabay

TOP NEWS

>>> DEAR MUCF COMMUNITY

As summer slowly settles over Europe's fields and research stations, this edition of the MUCF Newsletter arrives at a pivotal moment for the European plant protection community. The weeks since our Spring Meetings have been busy with regulatory developments, scientific advances, and the kind of cross-border collaboration that defines the MUCF's work at its best.

>>> IN THIS ISSUE

This summer edition covers the following topics:

- Insights from the Spring Meetings 2026 across all CEGs, the ReEG, and the HEG
- MUCF policy update: the Omnibus Simplification Package and Article 51
- New MUCF tools: the abridged dRR Part A template and the Efficacy and Residue Trials Availability database
- Upcoming events: Autumn Meetings 2026 in Rome



**SUMMER
EDITION**

By the MUCF team

MUCF

EDITORIAL FROM THE MUCF COORDINATOR

The Spring Meetings 2026 brought together our Commodity Expert Working Groups (CEGs), the Residues Expert Group (ReEG), and the Horizontal Expert Group (HEG) in a rich exchange of science, policy, and practice. From the regulatory details concerning basic substances in CEG Ornamentals to the ecological promise of predatory mites in hops production, the breadth of our community's expertise continues to impress and inspire.

Two themes stand out from this season's discussions. First, the proposed **Omnibus Simplification Package** and its implications for Article 51 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 have generated substantial debate. The MUCF has been active in responding to the public consultation. The voice of the Minor Uses community must be heard clearly in the trilogue process now under way between the European Commission, the Council of the EU, and the European Parliament.

Second, this newsletter marks a milestone for the MUCF's internal tools: our new **Efficacy and Residue Trials Availability database** is now in its test phase, and the abridged draft Registration Report Part A template has been finalised. Both instruments represent years of collective effort, and their operationalisation will meaningfully ease the path to extension of authorisation for minor uses across Member States.

On a personal note, the MUCF team wish to extend sincere gratitude to Mr **Florian Weihrauch** (DE), whose decades of dedication to hops research and to our CEG Hops have been invaluable. We wish him a well-deserved retirement

I am delighted to inform you that our **Autumn 2026 meetings will be held in Rome**, at the historic Palazzo Rospigliosi, from 13 to 15 October. I look forward to welcoming you there.

Fino a Roma,
Barbara Edler and the MUCF team



>>> MUCF AUTUMN MEETINGS 2026

2

The MUCF Autumn Meetings 2026 will be held in person from **13 to 15 October 2026 in Rome**, Italy, hosted at the **Centro Congressi Palazzo Rospigliosi**, for most of the MUCF working groups. The provisional programme is as follows:

**CEGS, REEG
AND HEG
SPRING 2026
MEETING
SCHEDULE**

**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS!**



Residues Expert Group (ReEG): October 13, 2026 | 09:30 – 12:30

Horizontal Expert Group (HEG): October 13, 2026 | 14:00 – 17:30

CEG Fruits and Vegetables: October 14, 2026 | 09:30 – 17:30

CEG Herbs and Spices: October 14, 2026 | 09:30 – 12:30

CEG Tobacco: October 14, 2026 | 09:30 – 17:30

CEG Hops (Session 1): October 14, 2026 | 09:00 – 12:00

Plenary Session (Topic TBC): October 15, 2026 | 09:00 – 10:00

CEG Ornamentals: October 15, 2026 | 10:30 – 17:30

CEG Hops (Session 2): October 15, 2026 | 10:30 – 17:30

CEG Seeds: October 15, 2026 | 10:30 – 17:30

CEG Mushrooms (online): October 21, 2026 | 11:00 – 13:00

CEG Rice: The chair position for this group is still vacant. No meetings are planned until this post is filled.

Further details, including final agendas, and logistical guidance, will be circulated to all participants in due course. The MUCF looks forward to welcoming the minor uses community to Rome.

>>> MUCF SPRING MEETINGS 2026

**SOME
HIGHLIGHTS**



The MUCF Spring Meetings 2026 convened experts across all crop groups and horizontal domains. Below, each group's key discussions are summarised for the benefit of the wider community.

Follow the [MUCF on LinkedIn](#) to stay up-to-date with the latest MUCF updates and upcoming events.

#MinorUsesMajorImportance and #LetsTalkAbout MinorUses





2026-03-02



22



Chair: Laurent Jacob (FR)
co-Chair: Niels Enggaard Kalusen (DK)

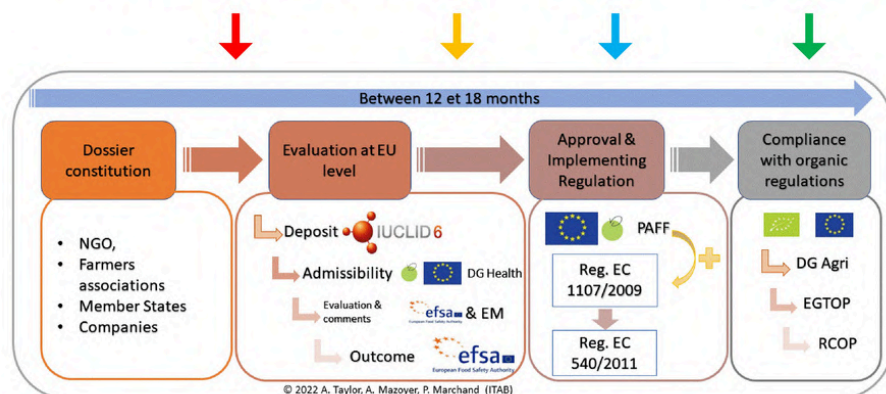
The spring session of the CEG Ornamentals centred on basic substances, a category of growing relevance to the horticultural sector. As defined in Regulation (EC) 1107/2009, a basic substance is one that is not a substance of concern, does not inherently cause endocrine disrupting, neurotoxic or immunotoxic effects, and whilst not primarily used for plant protection is nevertheless useful in that capacity, either directly or in a product.

Mr **Laurent Jacob** (FR) provided an overview of the 28 basic substances currently approved in Europe, a remarkably diverse list encompassing mustard seed powder, cow's milk, and beer, among others. Twelve of these are approved specifically for use in ornamental crops, predominantly for the control of downy mildew, and are listed in the [EU Pesticides database](#).

Mr **Patrice Marchand** (FR) presented the regulatory framework for extending the authorisation for basic substances. Applications must be submitted using the [IUCLID 6](#) tool and are assessed for admissibility by DG Sante. EFSA and a Rapporteur Member State conduct the scientific evaluation, whilst the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (PAFF committee) bears responsibility for the formal approval. Emergency authorisations under Article 53 are also available for basic substances where urgency is demonstrated.

basic substances pathway

Admissibility Questions Approval Transfer OP



Ms **Jo McTigue** (GB) presented an update on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and worker exposure mitigation in horticultural settings. The Horticulture Crop Protection (HCP) UK Limited has focused efforts on establishing product-specific dermal absorption values, rather than applying default parameters, and on adjusting Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) specifications accordingly. The EFSA OPEX model estimates non-dietary exposure through the Transfer Coefficient (TC), a measure of residue transfer from plant surfaces to workers. Generating this coefficient for the full range of crops and agricultural tasks (propagation, transplanting, weeding, etc.) remains a resource-intensive undertaking, and the group acknowledged that further investment in this area would be beneficial.

TC values

Transfer coefficient = The amount of transfer of residues from plant surfaces to clothes / skin of workers (cm²/h)
 Level of exposure dependant on intensity & duration of contact with foliage
 Determined by nature and duration of activity during re-entry

The screenshot shows the 'EFSA statistical models' application. The 'Application Scenarios' section is active, with the following settings: Crops: Low ornamentals; Indoor/outdoor: Indoor; Re-entry activity: Cutting, sorting, bundling, carrying; Re-entry activity TSF: Harvesting, including cutting and bundling. Below these settings, a table lists dermal transfer coefficients for worker body parts: Total potential exposure [cm²/h]: 14000; Arm, body and legs covered [cm²/h]: 5000; Hands, arm, body and legs covered [cm²/h]: 1400; Hands covered, no workwear [cm²/h]: NA; TSF [mg a.s./h ha/kg a.s.]: 0.1. The Horticulture Crop Protection logo is visible in the bottom right corner.

Types of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The infographic displays ten types of PPE with their respective icons and labels:

- Hearing protection: Earplugs and earmuffs.
- Head protection for overhead hazard areas: A yellow hard hat.
- Respiratory Protection: A respirator mask and a neck gaiter.
- Fall Protection: A safety harness.
- Disposable suit for protection from hazardous substances: A full-body white protective suit.
- Eye Protection: Safety goggles.
- Bee keeping Suit: A specialized protective suit for beekeeping.
- Rubber gloves for hand protection from hazardous substances: A pair of yellow rubber gloves.
- Steel toed boots: A pair of brown work boots.
- Rubber boots: A pair of green rubber boots.
- Gloves for hand protection: A pair of green work gloves.



2026-03-04



43



Chair Fruits Session: Ms Alice McGlynn (IE)

Chair Vegetables Session: Theodora Nikolopoulou (GR)

Chair Weeds Session: Peter Hartvig (DK)

The CEG Fruits and Vegetables group devoted considerable attention to the renewed approval of Captan, a pivotal fungicide in the management of fungal diseases on fruit trees, including apple scab, as well as storage rots and post-harvest infections. The **Captan Regulation (EU 2024/2186)**, valid until 31 October 2039, maintains the active substance within the approved list but introduces significantly stricter risk mitigation requirements, including the mandatory use of precision spraying equipment capable of achieving at least a 61 per cent reduction in exposure per hectare and a 20 per cent reduction in ground loss. Application is restricted to non-flowering periods. Mandatory PPE includes chemical-resistant gloves, coveralls, and respiratory protection.

Ms **Alice McGlynn** (IE) presented the results of a survey examining grower awareness of the new Captan requirements across apple-producing Member States. Awareness was broadly satisfactory, yet the survey highlighted access to specialised spraying equipment and operator training as the most significant practical barriers. Most respondents noted an absence of formal guidance or training provided by national authorities, a gap the group agreed warrants attention.

Follow-up Data Requirements (Company & CA)

- Within 18 months (by Mar 2026):
 - Prove precision equipment meets reduction targets
- Within 2 years (by Sept 2026):
 - Studies on metabolites (THPI, THPAM) in groundwater
- Water treatment impact on metabolites
- Storage stability in high-acid foods (e.g. strawberries)

Monitoring:

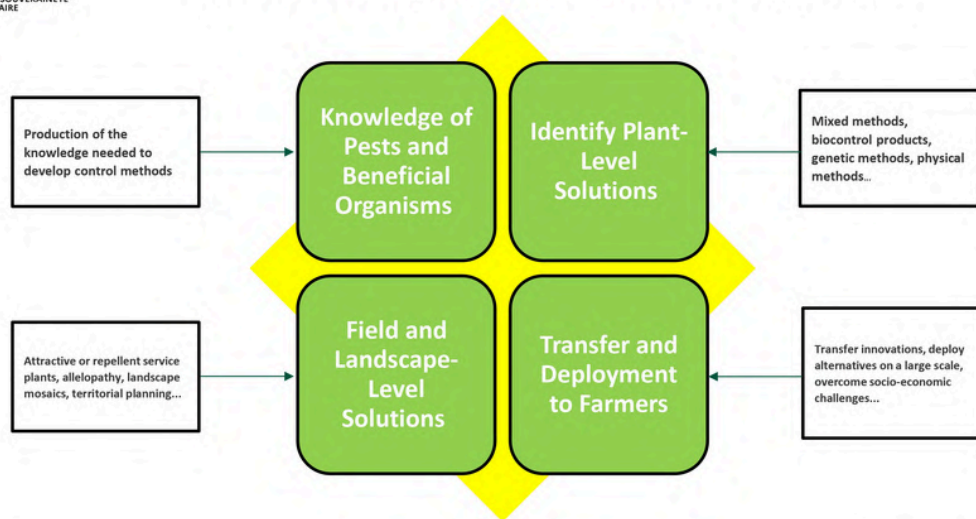
- May be set by MS under Directives 2000/60/EC (Water Policy) & 2009/128/EC (SUD)



Mr **Ludovic Dubois** (FR) outlined France's strategic action plan for anticipating active substance withdrawals and developing alternative crop protection techniques, known as PARSADA. Launched by the Ministry of Agriculture in 2023, the plan identifies 75 active substances at risk of withdrawal across seven production sectors, including field crops, fruits and vegetables, horticulture, seeds, perfume and aromatic plants, vineyards, and tropical crops. Since 2024, 38 projects have been funded with an envelope of 145 million EUR, and a new call for projects was issued in 2025 with a further 45 million EUR available.



Structure the Diagnosis and Action Plan Along Four Axes



8

28/09/2023

Ms **Theodora Nikolopoulou** (GR) updated the group on EFSA's project supporting urgent authorisations in the areas of plant health and pesticides (GP/EFSA/PLANTS/2023/02). Conducted in partnership with institutes in Greece (Benaki Phytopathological Institute), Spain (Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Tecnología Agraria y Alimentaria), and Denmark (Aarhus University), the project aims to:

- Develop separate protocols for insecticides and acaricides, fungicides, and bactericides, herbicides and PGR, and for other categories (e.g. soil fumigants) for the evaluation of emergency authorisations of PPP under Art. 53.
- Ensure harmonisation in managing emergency authorisations applications and that the granted emergency authorisations are not in contradiction with the objectives of the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity European Strategies.

Draft protocols for insecticides, acaricides, fungicides and bactericides, have been presented to stakeholders in 2025, and the public consultation periods have been completed. Draft protocols for herbicides will follow. The projects will include the following steps: (1) Case studies on how to apply the protocols, (2) Revision and finalisation of the protocols and (3) Stakeholder training.

Ms **Jeannette Vriend** (NL) presented ongoing Dutch research into mating disruption as a biological control method for *Chrysodeixis chalcites* in fruiting vegetables in greenhouses. The species presents significant pest management challenges owing to its broad host range, rapid development, and low damage threshold. Current control options, including *Bacillus thuringiensis* applications, insect screens, *Macrolophus* populations, and parasitoid wasps such as *Trichogramma* and *Euplectrus*, each carry practical limitations. Results from trials on tomato, sweet pepper, and aubergine are anticipated and will be reported at a future meeting.



Adult form (left) and caterpillar (right) of Chrysodeixis chalcites (meeting documentation by Jeannette Vriend)



Damage of Chrysodeixis chalcites caterpillar on leaf
Source: Koppert

>>> CEG HERBS AND SPICES

8



2026-03-11



15



Chair: Claire Donkin (GB)

co-Chair: Hans Van Der Mheen (HL)



Ms **Grace Emeny** (GB) brought the group up to date on the evolving UK-EU Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement. Negotiations commenced in January 2026, with entry into force targeted for June 2027. The scope encompasses the removal of export health and plant health certificates, the elimination of routine border checks on fresh agri-food products, and the harmonisation of active substance approvals and maximum residue levels (MRLs).

Whilst the agreement would reduce trade barriers, concerns within the United Kingdom include the prospective loss of 12 conventional active substances and uncertainty over the length of transitional arrangements. The potential for renewed mutual recognition and access to the Omnibus Simplification Package were noted as positive prospects. The existence of a grace period remains to be confirmed.

The group also received an update on a joint United Kingdom - Belgian project to generate a residue data package for Metamitron on spinach, with the aim of enabling extrapolation to herbs and spices. Two trials are planned in the United Kingdom and two in Belgium in 2026. Results will be reported at the Autumn 2026 meeting.

Ms **Anne Chapelle** (FR) presented the French **ADHEMAR project** (Anticiper la Disparition d'Herbicides en culture de plantes Médicinales, Aromatiques et à parfum) initiated in 2025 and led by ITEIPMAI (FR). Involving 13 partners and supported by a budget of nearly 4 million EUR, the project runs until 2029 and focuses on developing new protection solutions for herbs, spices, and medicinal plants.





2026-03-12



15



Chair: Martina Cappelletti (IT)
co-Chair: Esther Verdejo (ES)

Ms **Esther Verdejo** (ES) reported on trial work conducted by the Spanish Plant Health Service on tobacco crop protection. In the southern regulatory zone, nematodes, *Epitrix* species, and *Agrotis* species remain the principal pest challenges. Deltamethrin continues to be available for *Epitrix* species control, and exploratory trials on garlic extract for nematode management are under consideration, alongside research into resistant varieties (13 varieties explored so far). Disease management is focused on Fusarium and blue mould (*Peronospora hyoscyami*). Mandipropamid was registered for use on tobacco in Spain via Article 51 in March 2026, and Metalaxyl is expected to transition from emergency authorisation to a formal Article 51 status in 2027.



Epitrix hirtipennis; (image: Copyright © 2011 G.K. Gerber)

The group also discussed content to be published on the dedicated MUCF Tobacco webpage, covering production statistics, principal crop protection challenges, and highlights from the main producing countries. Check the new [dedicated webpage](#) on the **MUCF Website!**



2026-03-18/19



15



Chair: Magda Rak Cizej (SI)
co-Chair: Simon Erdinger (DE)

The Hops CEG convened in person at the [Hops Research Center Hüll](#), in Germany, a fitting setting for discussions that ranged from residue trial planning to cutting-edge biological control. Ms Bernadette Laugier (FR) summarised France's 2026 trial plan, which focuses on residue trials for potassium phosphonates and studies on spider mite control.



CEG Hops experts (image: Hops Research Center Hüll).

A substantial part of the meeting was devoted to the active substance Flupyradifurone, which is notable for being the only approved substance with a dedicated MRL for one of its metabolites, Difluoroacetic acid (DFA, MRL 0.3 mg/kg). Approximately 20 per cent of German hops production received Flupyradifurone treatments in 2025. Following official food control findings of DFA in hops, subsequent studies estimated approximately 2 800 tonnes of non-compliant raw hops, with a potential value impact of 18.6 million EUR. Expanded DFA monitoring in raw hops and hops products is now being implemented. The EFSA conclusion on the risk assessment of Flupyradifurone is [publicly available](#).

Ms **Regina Stampfl** (DE) described the transition to mandatory digital recording of pesticide applications, effective from 1 January 2026. Records must now be maintained in a machine-readable, electronic format, capturing application date, operator identity, EPPO Code for the crop, and BBCH growth stage. Practical challenges identified include the time required for accurate data entry and complications arising from changes to product approval numbers between purchase and application.

Ms **Alinne Oliveira** and Ms **Shelbi Knisley** (US) provided a global perspective on MRL modifications and discussed the potential implications of the Omnibus Simplification Package for standards applied to imported products. An EU impact assessment on this question, prepared by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, is expected in preliminary form by Summer 2026.

Ms **Chara Panagopoulou** (GR) presented an update on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in plant protection products. Under the current proposed REACH restriction, PFAS in plant protection products are assessed under Regulation 1107/2009 rather than REACH. Particular attention is being directed at trifluoroacetic acid (TFA), a persistent metabolite of several PFAS active substances. EFSA currently holds two related mandates: to establish toxicological reference values for TFA (outcome expected by end of July 2026), and to evaluate TFA formation in soil and water in light of recent findings suggesting possible under-detection. Approximately 30 PFAS active substances are currently within regulatory discussions under Regulation 1107/2009, of which 23 are under renewal.

Key Takeaways

- Regulatory scrutiny of PFAS in PPPs is increasing
- TFA formation is a central scientific and regulatory question
- Many active substances are currently under renewal evaluation
- EFSA mandates expected to shape future risk assessment approaches

Mr **Florian Weihrauch** (DE) presented the results of field experiments on the mechanical release of predatory mites for spider mite control in hops. A tractor-mounted prototype developed in collaboration with Koppert has been tested for releasing 100 000 mites per hectare, with additional trials employing agricultural drones. Results are promising, though highly sensitive to the timing of the initial release and subject to incompatibilities with applications of sulphur and pyrethroids. Mr Weihrauch also called for a revised definition of hop quality focused on chemical composition rather than cone morphology, which he argued is essential for the broader adoption of biological control.



*Prototype for mechanical release of predatory mites;
(image: meeting documentation by Florian Weihrauch).*

*Thank
You*

*The MUCF warmly acknowledges the outstanding contribution of Mr **Florian Weihrauch** to the CEG Hops and to European hops research. After decades of rigorous scientific engagement and collegial generosity, Mr Weihrauch will retire by the end of 2026. His expertise will be greatly missed, and the MUCF community extends its warmest wishes to him for the years ahead.*



2026-03-23



22



Chair: Gea Bouwman (NL)

co-Chair: Amalia Kafka (Euroseeds)

Mr **Malte Frenzel** (Bayer) presented the biocontrol product Susteed, based on *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* and targeting principally Rhizoctonia species and Phoma species. Authorisation timelines are projected for 2026 to 2027, depending on the Member State.

Ms **Carole Desbois-Vimont** (FR) informed participants of recent developments regarding the approval of active substances in crop production and protection, and drew attention to a possible revision of the regulatory status of talc. Currently approved in Europe as a basic substance, talc has been reclassified as a potential carcinogen, which may prompt a review of its status.

Mr **Lawrence Matthews** (MarinaTex Ltd) presented the SECURESeed II project, a collaboration between Cranfield University, the Processors and Growers Research Organisation (PGRO), and Elsoms Seeds Ltd. The project aims to scale up and validate a natural, biodegradable seed coating designed to enhance the effectiveness of Plant Beneficial Microbes in vining peas. Glasshouse trials have been completed, and three field trials are planned for 2026. The group will receive an update on outcomes in due course.



Greenhouse trial on vining peas (meeting documentation by Lawrence Matthews).



2026-03-24



23



Chair: Tiia Mäkinen-Töykkä (FI)

co-Chair: Chris Anagnostopoulos (GR)

Mr **Jose-Luis Alonso-Prados** (ES) presented three Spanish proposals (citrus-to-mango, citrus-to-avocado, citrus-to-pomegranate) to extend MRL extrapolation possibilities, developed jointly by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Asociación Empresarial para la Protección de las Plantas (AEPLA, ES).



The proposal for citrus-to-mango extrapolation, in which observed residue levels in mango were consistently below those in orange and the dietary intake of mango (highest: 0.8% of the total diet of Italian adults) represents a smaller proportion of total orange consumption (highest: 6.5% of the total diet for German children), will be submitted to the SCoPAFF Residue meeting in 2026.

The citrus-to-avocado proposal, originally presented at the June 2025 SCoPAFF meeting, has been revised to address concerns regarding matrix group differences (acid vs. oil), stone vs. non-stone fruit, and EFSA's concern about extrapolating from a crop group (citrus) to a single crop (avocado). It is now framed more narrowly as an orange-to-avocado extrapolation.



Residue trial data from 2024 and 2025 are still being compiled for the citrus-to-pomegranate proposal. The first results suggest that the observed residue levels are lesser in pomegranate than in citrus. The full MRL calculation and proposal documents are still under progress.

Ms **Tiia Mäkinen-Töykkä** (FI) proposed extending an existing oilseed-to-caraway extrapolation, already endorsed in the latest Residue Extrapolation Guideline (SANTE/2019/12752), to include coriander seeds. Coriander cultivation in Finland currently covers some 700 hectares and is experiencing growing interest among farmers owing to the high added value of the crop. On good farming sites, the yields can attain around 100 kg/ha.





2026-03-26



26



Chair: Rauno Aljas (EE)

co-Chair: Barbara Edler (MUCF)

The HEG dedicated significant time to two institutional topics with long-term implications for the MUCF's work.

Harmonised minor crop definition

Ms **Christina Donat** (MUCF Consultant) presented the conclusions of an extended process to explore a harmonised EU minor crop definition. A three-step framework, anchored in crop acreage at both EU-wide and national level, was developed and presented. Following a discussion at the December 2025 Steering Group meeting, which revealed an evenly divided response among participants, the MUCF Steering Group decided not to pursue this topic further. The MUCF proposes to close these discussions formally by presenting the framework and its conclusions to the SCoPAFF Legislation meeting, thereby ensuring an adequate record of the process.

Abridged draft Registration Report Part A – Art. 51: A Harmonised Template for Minor Use Authorisations

A milestone has been reached in the work of the Minor Uses Coordination Facility with the finalisation of the abridged draft Registration Report Part A template for extensions of authorisation under Article 51. Ms **Chara Panagopoulou** (MUCF Consultant) presented the completed version, marking the conclusion of a collaborative process that officially began at the first hybrid meeting in Brussels in May 2024.

The development of this template responded to a clear need expressed by Member States during HEG meetings. Until now, different formats had been used across the EU, with some countries relying on nationally developed templates and others following their own internal structures. While a common format is not mandatory, Member States recognised the value of a jointly accepted document to make minor use authorisations more uniform, transparent, and efficient across the Union.

The template can be used on a voluntary basis and was shaped through multiple rounds of revision across five meetings. It covers all key elements: a summary of the plant protection product's status, residue data, extrapolation tables for residues and efficacy, links to the relevant sections of Part B, information on CIRCABC uploads, and clarification on risk envelope coverage. This work represents a collective achievement by several EU Member States, establishing a consistent and practical framework that supports mutual recognition, reduces administrative burden, and offers clearer guidance for applicants across the Union. Following minor adjustments after the October 2025 meeting and one consultation round with DG Sante's Legal Service, the final version will be circulated to HEG participants ahead of its formal presentation to the SCoPAFF Legislation meeting in 2026 for endorsement.

Efficacy and Residue Trials Availability database

Mr **Antoine Martin** (MUCF) updated the group on the new MUCF Efficacy and Residue Trials Availability database, currently in a test phase with a selected panel of experts. The database aims to consolidate national trial datasets into a unified platform, reducing duplication and facilitating data exchange in support of extensions of authorisation. A refined version, incorporating feedback from testers, will be presented at the Autumn 2026 meeting.

Policy spotlight: The Omnibus Simplification Package

The proposed **EU Omnibus Simplification Package** (COM/2025/1030) contains several amendments to Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 that are of direct relevance to the minor use's community. The most significant changes concerning Article 51, which governs the extension of authorisation for minor uses were discussed and elaborated during The HEG meeting.

Among the key proposed modifications, the public interest criterion that Member States must currently demonstrate when granting extensions would be removed from Article 51(2). Whilst this change could contribute to a degree of harmonisation across Member States, concerns have been raised that it may inadvertently restrict certain extension pathways that have historically been justified on public interest grounds.

A further noteworthy shift is the change from a discretionary to a mandatory obligation for Member States to take measures that facilitate or encourage the submission of extension of use applications. The proposed text reads that Member States 'shall' rather than 'may' take such measures, a linguistic adjustment carrying significant legal weight.

Finally, the longstanding reference to a European fund for minor uses would be removed from the regulation, on the grounds that the creation of the MUCF addresses the underlying policy intent. The MUCF still encourages the countries to dedicate a budget to tackle the topic of minor uses gaps in Europe.

The consultation on the Omnibus Simplification Package remains open until May 15th. Members are encouraged to submit their contributions at:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14824>

A trilogue between the European Commission, the Council of the EU, and the European Parliament is currently under way, with finalisation anticipated in late 2026 or early 2027. The MUCF will continue to monitor and report on developments as they arise.



The MUCF was represented at two scientific events this Spring season, each of which offered a valuable opportunity to engage with the broader European plant protection and crop science community on questions of direct relevance to minor uses.

UNTWIST Project

On 15 January 2026, the **UNTWIST** project held its final meeting and round table discussion in Austria, hosted by the Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT). The project addressed the growing challenge of crop resilience under climate change, with a particular focus on *Camelina sativa*, an oil-producing brassica crop with a high linolenic fatty acid content and considerable agronomic promise as a climate-resilient yet still underutilised minor crop. Researchers from Rothamsted Research (GB), National Institute of Agronomic Research (INRAE, FR), and the Department of Agricultural and Food Sciences at the University of Bologna (IT) presented new insights into phenotypic plasticity, metabolic responses to heat and drought, and agronomic practices to optimise crop yields across European environments. The meeting also introduced the Plant Adaptation Hub, presented by Forschungszentrum Jülich, as a platform integrating camelina adaptation data, whilst the University of Vienna contributed broader perspectives on abiotic stress acclimation in potato. The final round table discussion underlined the importance of translating scientific knowledge on crop adaptation, with special attention to minor crops, into practical guidance capable of supporting resilient European farming systems.

Innsbruck Plant Protection Days

On 27 March 2026, the Plant Protection Expert Conference held in Innsbruck, Austria, convened under the theme '**Chemical Plant Protection - A Dying Model? Three Countries, One Path for Regional Crop Production.**' The interdisciplinary forum brought together scientists, regulatory authorities, and practitioners from across the Alpine and wider European region to examine the future of chemical plant protection in the context of increasing regulatory constraints and shifting agricultural practices. The MUCF contribution addressed minor uses within the European plant protection product authorisation system, with particular focus on coordination mechanisms, regulatory challenges, and the scope for action available to producers of specialty crops. The structural deficiencies that persist in the area of minor uses remain among the most enduring unresolved issues within the European plant protection regime, with direct and tangible consequences for vegetable and fruit producers. The conference programme also placed explicit emphasis on the scientific distinction between hazard and risk within the regulatory framework, on the contamination of water bodies through diffuse non-agricultural input pathways, and on the analytical differentiation of glyphosate sources. The discussions reaffirmed that structured, cross-border dialogue between the scientific community, regulatory authorities, and agricultural practice is a prerequisite for evidence-based plant protection measures.

The MUCF thanks the organisers of both events for the opportunity to contribute and looks forward to continued engagement with the wider plant protection and crop science community at future occasions.

>>> FUTURE DATES TO NOTE

- **4 June 2026: MUCF Summer Steering Group Meeting**
-
- **June 2026:** SCoPAFF Legislation meeting, including formal presentation of the abridged dRR Part A template
- **Summer 2026:** Expected publication of the Joint Research Center preliminary impact assessment on the Omnibus Simplification Package and imported product standards
- **End of July 2026:** Expected EFSA output on toxicological reference values for trifluoroacetic acid (TFA)
-
- **13 to 15 October 2026:** MUCF Autumn Meetings, Rome
- **21 October 2026:** CEG Mushrooms online meeting
- **Late 2026 to early 2027:** Anticipated conclusion of the Omnibus Simplification Package trilogue



STAY IN CONTACT:
Minor Uses Coordination Facility
21 Boulevard Richard Lenoir
75011 Paris, France



contact@minoruses.eu



+33 (0) 184790755

Follow the [MUCF on LinkedIn](#) to stay up-to-date with the latest MUCF updates and upcoming events.
[#MinorUsesMajorImportance](#) and [#LetsTalkAboutMinorUses](#)



To unsubscribe, please contact contact@minoruses.eu