



Meeting "Horizontal Expert Group", 01 November 2017

The main conclusions of the meeting of the “Horizontal Expert Group”, held on 01 November 2017 in Dublin, are listed below.

- The meeting was attended by 39 people.
- **Long-term funding strategy** Currently, the Coordination Facility is jointly funded by the EU and the governments of France, Germany and the Netherlands. The funding is secured until April 2018. A priority for the Coordination Facility is to ensure longer term finance as it is clear that minor uses problems will not all be resolved in three years. A letter from the European Commission was circulated to the Permanent Representatives of the Member States. The issue of the long-term funding of the MUCF was also discussed in the AGRI-FISH Council meeting on 9 October 2017. Many Member States acknowledged the importance of the MUCF. The MUCF has sent out invoices to national minor uses contact points to make contributions for 2018 still possible.
- The second **Stakeholder Advisory Forum** of the European Union Minor Uses Coordination Facility (MUCF) will be held on 06 February 2018 in Brussels.
- The **Guidance Document on Minor Uses** will describe the process from minor use need to a solution and will be a compact overview on all registration issues as data requirements, data protection, data ownership, zonal procedure, mutual recognition. Items in the Guidance Document are also linked to the use of EUMUDA, e.g. introduction of needs and projects, confidentiality and access rights, project plan. The MUCF will organise a meeting of the drafting group early 2018.
- **Rules for participation in expert group meetings** Expertise, active and constructive participation, providing information and agenda items, and having an EU-mind set are the key aspects of this document. The final document will be forwarded to the Steering Group for approval in their meeting on 22 November 2017. *Post meeting note: The document on rules for participation in expert group meetings was approved by the Steering Group.*
- **Rules for the establishment of a new Commodity Expert Group** The final document will be forwarded to the Steering Group for approval in their meeting on 22 November 2017. *Post meeting note: The document on rules for the establishment of a new Commodity Expert Group was approved by the Steering Group, but to put it on hold until the financial situation of the MUCF has been clarified.*

- **Planning of ‘spring’ meetings** In March 2018 the meetings of the Chairs of the CEGs, the individual CEGs and the HEG will again all be held back-to-back at Square Meeting Centre in Brussels. The meetings will be held from Tuesday 13 March until Thursday 15 March. A plenary session is planned for Wednesday morning 14 March and the HEG will take place on Thursday 15 March.

- The MUCF will prepare a **list of active substances** that are in the process of approval or renewal of approval. This list should then be circulated to all chairs CEGs so that the chairs CEG can indicate the importance of these substances for minor uses, and that information will then be shared with SCoPAFF.

- The **Third Global Minor Uses Summit (GMUS-3)** took place in Montreal, Canada, 1-4 October 2017. The GMUS was attended by EU representatives from the MUCF, Copa-Cogeca, ECPA, IBMA, DE, FI, FR, NL and UK. All information and presentations can be found at the GMU portal (www.gmup.org). Regarding the conclusions and recommendations from GMUS, it is planned that the EU/MUCF will be involved in the following items:
 - Establish minor use champions from regions, to participate in annual meetings and workshops, communicate global activities and upcoming events.
 - Review and publish a list of substances exempt from MRLs (such as most biopesticides and compounds of no toxicological concern).
 - Explore mechanisms to have Global MRL Database accessible and publicly available.
 - Explore expansion of EUMUDA database to maintain priority lists, data holders, country registers
 - Develop an international crop grouping scheme for efficacy/target safety data for non-food crops
 - Review various definitions of minor crops and identify commonalities and differences

- In preparation of the **Second Global Minor Use Priority Setting Workshop** (4 October 2017, Montreal, <http://gmup.org>) the MUCF has submitted a priority list on behalf of the EU. This list is available in EUMUDA: https://eumuda.minoruses.eu/database/table_minor_uses_GMUS. This list covers the minor uses needs of 14 Member States and Norway, and also contains a column that provides the EU-ranking of EU priorities. The following was agreed:
 - Member States that have not yet responded will be asked again by the MUCF for their priorities.
 - The current table of minor uses needs and the list of GMUS priorities will be merged so that EUMUDA will contain one single table of needs
 - This final list with priorities will form the basis for the workplans of the CEGs.

- The list with national minor use contact points will be circulated to Member States for update or confirmation. Preferably, there should be at least two contact points (as back-up) per Member State.
- The goal of the **Second Global Needs Priority Setting Workshop** was to select three projects for research, one each in a temperate, a tropical and a greenhouse crop system along with backup projects in each area. The following **global priorities** were selected:

Area	Crop	Pest
Temperate	Basil	Downy Mildew
	Lettuce	Weeds
Tropical	Banana	Nematodes
	Mango	Anthracnose
Greenhouse	Ornamentals	Thrips
	Cucumber	Powdery Mildew

- Regarding the **REFIT** process the Commission has launched an evaluation study and a contractor has started work. Stakeholder consultation will take place by means of questionnaires and interviews. The final report from the consultant should be available by end of May 2018. The following website can be consulted for the latest status of the REFIT process: https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/pesticides/refit_en.
- A plenary session to gather input for the **REFIT** process, followed by sessions in four Breakout Groups (BOGs) was held in March 2017. The MUCF has prepared an overview of the conclusions of the BOGs. The following was agreed:
 - Member States can already start using the recommendations and conclusions in the report and start to ‘push boundaries to the extent possible’ for example by maximize extrapolation possibilities and by the acceptance of residue data from outside the EU.
 - The final document will be forwarded to the Steering Group for note taking in their meeting on 22 November 2017. *Post meeting note: The report from breakout group discussions about the REFIT was noted by the Steering Group and the issues mentioned in the report can be taken forward in the REFIT process, and/or in the Guidance Document on minor uses.*
- **Results of the overview of Minor Uses work in Member States** In March 2017 the MUCF presented 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. The MUCF has

prepared 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. The following was agreed:

- The final document will be forwarded to the Steering Group for approval in their meeting on 22 November 2017. *Post meeting note: The Report on Minor Uses work in Member States was approved by the Steering Group*
- After approval the report should be presented and discussed in the SCoPAFF meeting with a focus on the issues that Member States are supposed to take forward.
- A pilot with an **Article 51 application** for an extension of a minor use authorisation will be carried out by one of the CEGs. This to learn where the problems are for a wider acceptance of evaluations carried out by another Member State and to improve further harmonization.
- **Breakout groups** were formed to discuss the following statements:
 - “What is in your opinion needed to establish a more harmonised approach to facilitate minor use authorisation (e.g. mutual recognition, zonal applications), thus creating the desired level playing field?” and
 - “What would be in your opinion the most effective way to come to that point?”

It was agreed that the MUCF will include these conclusions/recommendations -as appropriate- in the Guidance Document on Minor Uses.

- **EU Minor Uses Database (EUMUDA)** The new version of EUMUDA has been launched on 28 June 2017. Updates of the homepage, the table of minor uses needs including the GMUS Survey, the work programmes, and the crop acreages table have been done and these are now used by the CEGs. A user’s manual for EUMUDA is in preparation. *Post meeting note: The **Guide for users of EUMUDA** is now available on EUMUDA homepage www.eumuda.eu*
- **Confidentiality and access rights in EUMUDA** The final document will be forwarded to the Steering Group for approval in their meeting on 22 November 2017. *Post meeting note: The document on confidentiality and access rights in EUMUDA was approved by the Steering Group.*
- The ‘**French Catalogue of Uses**’ can be considered as the French reference list of minor crops/minor pests. The ‘**French database for the management/evaluation of uses regarding the future of active substances**’ is used to develop the work programme for France. Other Member States are encouraged to develop a similar tool.
- **Johan Roman** announced his resignation as a chair of the HEG. From now on he will only focus on plant health issues. The MUCF thanked Johan for his great efforts to take the minor uses issue forward at EU-level and his continuously efforts to have active participation from all HEG-members.
- It is considered appropriate to appoint the **new chair of the HEG** in the **next meeting** of the HEG on 15 March 2018.