



**Meeting "Steering Group EU Minor Uses Coordination Facility",
22 November 2017**

The main conclusions of the meeting of the “Steering Group EU Minor Uses Coordination Facility”, held on 22 November 2017 in Brussels, are listed below.

- The meeting was attended by representatives from European Commission, France, Germany, the Netherlands, EPPO and MUCF.
- **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.
- It is needed to clarify the **scenarios** for the activities of the MUCF with low budget, medium budget, high budget. In that way for every MS it would be visible how the money will be spent. A ‘**contract**’ that will contain one or two pages providing the objectives of the MUCF after 5 years and scenarios with a low budget, medium budget and high budget needs to be prepared. A **prospectus** with a long-term perspective (5 years) should accompany the contract. *Post meeting note: A draft contract and prospectus, that can be used by Member States when they are financially contributing to the EU Minor Uses Coordination Facility can be found on the MUCF website.*
- The MUCF is strongly advised to **meet major MS** to explain the work of the MUCF and to highlight the advantages of joining actively the work of the MUCF.
- **Status Grant Contracts** It was noted that the amount from the contributions from DE, FR and NL that were not spent in the first or second year can be used for the coming years. The grant agreement for the third year was signed.
- The presentation on the **methodology** used by the MUCF to solve minor uses issues was found to be useful. The fact that MUCF is also looking for **biological control solutions** was welcomed. *Post meeting note: The presentation on the methodology used by the MUCF can be found on the MUCF website*
- A **guidance document (GD)** on minor uses is strongly needed. The MUCF is working on this. The GD will include the procedure to follow and

recommendations to MS how to facilitate minor uses extensions/authorisations. The MUCF wishes that the GD is noted at SCoPAFF.

- The second **Stakeholder Advisory Forum** of the European Union Minor Uses Coordination Facility (MUCF) will be held on 06 February 2018 in Brussels.
- 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). The conclusions and recommendations from GMUS were noted by the Steering Group. In general, it is considered important to keep track of all the conclusions/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
- The Steering Group approved the document '**Confidentiality and access rights in EUMUDA**'. *Post meeting note: The document on confidentiality and access rights can be found on the MUCF website and on EUMUDA homepage.*
- The **list of (co-) chairs of CEGs** was noted by the Steering Group. The Steering Group referred to the Terms of Reference (ToR) and indicated that the MUCF should urge CEGs to fully align with the ToR (e.g. to have a chair and a co-chair). The MUCF will ask the CEG (co)-chairs if they agree on publishing their email address in EUMUDA.
- The list of '**National minor uses contact points**' was noted by the Steering Group.
- The MUCF has developed clear rules on the composition and the number of attendees in the Expert Groups. This to monitor the participation of experts from Member States and stakeholders in expert groups, as well as to control the budget for expert group meetings. The Steering Group approved the document '**Participation of experts in Commodity Expert Groups (CEGs)**

and the Horizontal Expert Group (HEG)'. *Post meeting note: The document on participation of experts in CEGs and HEG can be found on the MUCF website.*

- Currently, there are 7 Commodity Expert Groups operational within the EU Minor Uses Coordination Facility, covering the following commodities: Fruit and Vegetables, Hops, Mushrooms, Ornamentals, Rice, Seeds and Tobacco. The Steering Group approved the document '**Rules for the establishment of a new Commodity Expert Group**' but decided to put it on hold until the financial situation of the MUCF has been clarified.
- **Report on 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 report 'Report on Minor Uses work in Member States' was approved by the Steering Group. The report will be presented at the Stakeholder Advisory Forum and can be found on the MUCF website.
- A plenary session to gather input for the **REFIT** process was held in March 2017. The MUCF has prepared an overview of the conclusions. The report from the discussions about the REFIT was noted by the Steering Group and can be found on the MUCF website
- As the current chair of the HEG has resigned it is considered appropriate that the **HEG will appoint a new chair** from its members in the next meeting (15 March 2018).
- The Steering Group will dedicate a **special session** to 'the way forward for the MUCF in 5 years' time'.
- The **next meeting** of the Steering Group will be in April 2018. In that meeting, the Steering Group will also discuss the composition of the Steering Group in the future after the expiry of the grant agreement with the European Commission and the three funding Member States (DE, FR and NL).