

Brussels, 24 November 2025

**Object: deep concerns regarding pesticide proposals in the Simplification Omnibus on Food and Feed Safety**

Dear Ms Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission,  
Dear Mr Olivér Várhelyi, Commissioner for Health and Animal Welfare,  
Dear Ms Teresa Ribera, Executive Vice President for a Clean, Just and Competitive Transition  
Dear Ms Jessika Roswall, Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy,

We wish to stress our deep concerns regarding the proposals to de-regulate safeguards for conventional chemical pesticides, currently under preparation within the Commission as part of the Simplification Omnibus on Food and Feed Safety.

In its report<sup>1</sup> presented to the Council on the 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025, DG Sante has made clear it plans to (1) grant unlimited EU approvals for pesticide active substances across the board. We also understand that the draft discussed within the Commission also (2) deletes the obligation to take into account the latest scientific and technical knowledge in pesticide risk assessment (3) extends the length of the grace period to three years following a substance ban. These proposals would critically weaken the pesticide regulation 1107/2009 and thereby the protection of public health and our ecosystems.

Particularly worrying is the proposal for unlimited authorisations. The current system of 10 to 15 year authorisations provides the opportunity to include new scientific research into the authorisation process. The need for periodic review is clearly demonstrated by past cases in which routine re-evaluation led to the withdrawal of substances later found to pose serious risks to human health or the environment. A clear example is chlorpyrifos: exposure during pregnancy has been associated with persistent structural abnormalities in the brain and impaired motor development in children. The substance was eventually banned in the EU due to these neurodevelopmental harms. Other examples are mancozeb, thiacloprid (both reprotoxic), flufenacet (endocrine disrupting), and all the neonicotinoids now withdrawn in the EU. Changing the time-bound authorisations would significantly weaken the of the health millions of Europeans and the ecosystems that support them.

Equally worrying is the proposed removal of Member States' obligation to include the latest independent scientific findings when conducting national assessments of pesticide products. This appears to run counter to and potentially neutralises the effect of the recent Court of Justice's ruling, which reaffirmed the duty of Member States to consider the most up-to-date scientific evidence before authorising a pesticide at national level.

Finally, extending the grace periods for banned pesticides would mean that citizens remain exposed for several additional years to substances of significant concern, including endocrine disruptors, carcinogens and neurotoxicants, even after their official prohibition.

These proposals would also go directly against the call of countless EU citizens that have expressed clear demands to phase out dangerous, synthetic pesticides through public [consultations, successive barometers](#) and two successful [European citizens' initiatives](#). Time and time again, opinion polls show a wish to have more, not less, protection against the harmful effects of pesticides.

However, we do see that to deliver on the call of EU citizens, we need to support the uptake of alternatives that pose a lower risk to health and the environment, namely biological control. A broad majority in the Parliament is calling for the Simplification Omnibus on Food and Feed Safety to focus on ensuring a faster registration and uptake of biocontrol while ensuring a high level of protection for health and the environment, not for dismantling decades-long safeguards in place for conventional chemical pesticides. As the soon to be voted own-initiative report on biocontrol, specifies a targeted revision of the existing pesticide authorisation and approval regulation 1107/2009, that focusses solely on improving the procedures for biological control.

We thank you for your attention in this matter and would be available further discuss alternative solutions, which do ensure a high level of protection for health and the environment as enshrined in the Treaty.

We are looking forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Bas Eickhout, Greens-EFA co-president

Sara Matthieu, Greens-EFA Com ENVI coordinator

Thomas Waitz, Greens-EFA Com AGRI coordinator

Anna Strolenberg, Com AGRI co-rapporteur of biocontrol INI

Majdouline Sbai, Com ENVI shadow rapporteur of biocontrol INI

Footnote:

1 <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-14737-2025-INIT/en/pdf>