



# The Biocontrol Industry: Key Player for Sustainable Agriculture

## The Final Regulatory Hurdle

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ABIM

Basel, 25 October 2016



# Male Fertility Under Threat



Findings of Renowned Andrology Expert Dr Gert Dohle, Erasmus Medical Centre, Netherlands

- Rising loss of male fertility
- Next generation in serious trouble
- “Synthetic chemicals disrupt the endocrine system [incl. the human reproductive system] and contribute to disease and disability across the lifespan”
  - Further research required
- We need more Low Risk Pesticides Now



# Biological low-risk pesticides Resolution Time Table



- Oral Question in ENVI 28/11/16: Call on EC to immediately provide access for LRP to market through specific protocol
- Motion for Resolution in ENVI 23/01/17: Must Demand Specific Access Procedure for LRP in two-three years
- Vote in EP Plenum: 13/02/17



# Full Agreement Among All Stakeholders



- Formal letter European Commissioner for SANTE Dr Vytenis Andriukaitis 01/08/16: “**The Commission shares the same interest to promote low risk solutions for plant protection**”
- Since 12/10/16 Draft LRP Resolution Supported by ALL PARTIES in the European Parliament – **No Opposition Left!!!**
- Elite Poll of 5/5/15: **93%** of all experts want the European Commission to facilitate and accelerate the approval procedures of low-risk bio-pesticides

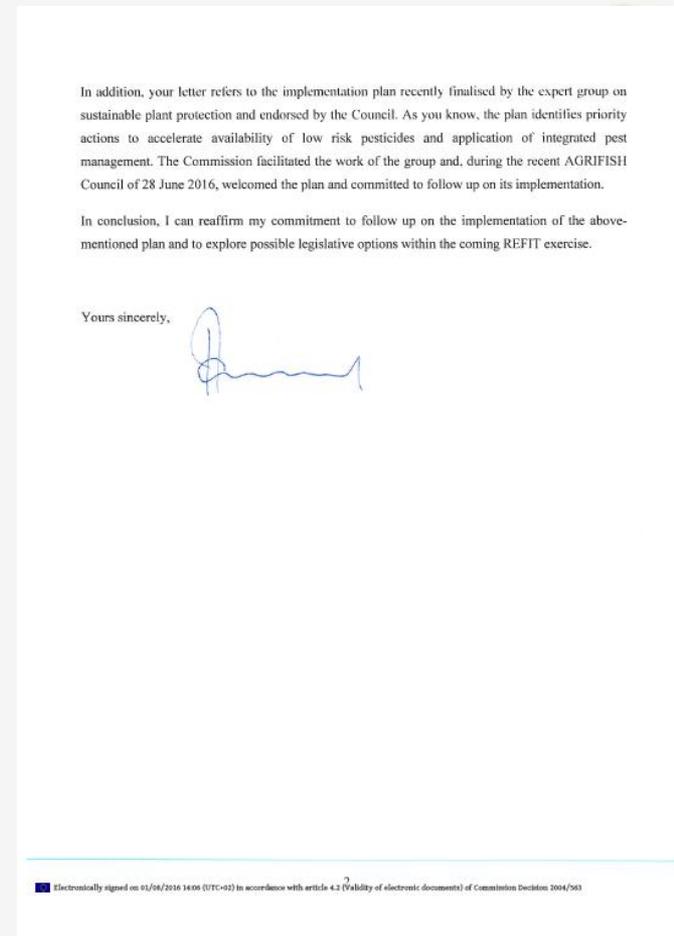
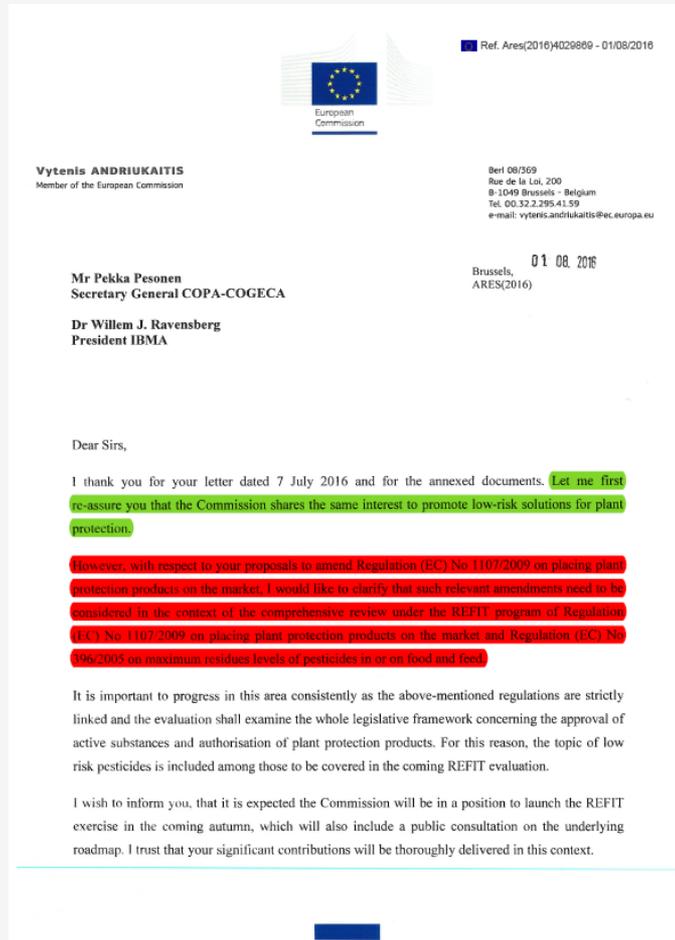


# OQ/MfR Co-Sponsors



- Mr Herbert Dorfmann (EPP)
- Mr Pavel Poc (S&D)
- Ms Julie Girling (ECR)
- Ms Frédérique Ries (ALDE)
- Ms Lynn Boylan (GUE/NGL)
- Mr Bart Staes (Greens/EFA)
- Ms Mireille D'Ornano (ENF)

# Last Bureaucratic Hurdle: Timing



Electronically signed on 01/08/2016 14:06 (UTC+02) in accordance with article 4.2 (Validity of electronic documents) of Commission Decision 2004/503



# The Urgency



1. Male fertility under serious threat
2. Neonics, Glyphosate, EDCs (Endocrine Disruptive Chemicals) – demonstrating we cannot guarantee reliance on chemical pesticides filling the farmer's toolbox
3. COPA-COGECA: Farmers need more tools

# Joint Letter of IBMA and COPA-COGECA to Commissioner Andriukaitis

**copa\*cogeca**  
european farmers european agri-cooperatives



Dr Vytenis Andriukaitis  
European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety  
By email: [vytenis.andriukaitis@ec.europa.eu](mailto:vytenis.andriukaitis@ec.europa.eu)

Brussels, 16 September 2016  
Ref Nr: 16.37125BB

Dear Commissioner, dear Dr Andriukaitis,

Thank you very much for your letter of 1 August 2016.

We thank you for your full agreement with our position that Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 must be adapted as a matter of urgency to allow low risk pesticides to enter the European Market as soon as possible. This serves the health interests of the consumers while completing the toolbox of the farmers.

We consider a so-called Fitness Check procedure a way to solve the internal contradictions in Plant Protection Products legislation. Consumer interests are highlighted when in Preamble (35) of the Regulation it is stated that farmers should prioritize the use of low risk pesticides over chemical pesticides; yet to the contrary in subsequent articles non-chemical low-risk pesticides appear to have to follow the same lengthy and expensive procedure as conventional chemical pesticides in order to have access to the market. This is one of the causes why very few new active substances have entered the European farmer's toolbox.

EU farmers and agri-cooperatives and producers of low risk pesticides have agreed on the required minimal regulatory changes that, through a Fitness Check, can be immediately adopted. Importantly, the Fitness Check procedure can lead to a short term/temporary solution that will last until the lengthy bureaucratic process of a Refit Procedure has led to an effective result.

This decision would be in line with the Council initiative Expert Group on Sustainable Plant Protection<sup>1</sup> and the European Parliament where it is expected that a strong majority will adopt a Resolution requesting the European Commission to rid Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the said contradiction forthwith.

According to DG Growth policy: "The European Commission considers SMEs and entrepreneurship as key to ensuring economic growth, innovation, job creation, and social integration in the EU". In this respect, we would like to highlight that SMEs are major producers of low risk pesticides.

Based on your positive reply to a letter of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the European Parliament's ENVI Committee (Attachment 1), Copa and Cogeca, European farmers and agri-cooperatives and IBMA, producers of low risk pesticides, now call on you to correct the contradiction in Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 forthwith.

As in the past, we are entirely at your disposal for positive and constructive cooperation in the interest of the health of the European consumer.

Yours Sincerely,

<sup>1</sup> <http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-10041-2016-NIT/en/pdf>

**copa\*cogeca**  
european farmers european agri-cooperatives



Pekka Pesonen  
Secretary-General Copa-Cogeca

Dr Willem Ravensberg  
President IBMA

Encl:  
- Attachment 1: Letter to Commissioner Andriukaitis by Mr la Via and Mr Poc.



# Bureaucratic Exercise: Fitness Check and REFIT

- The Cabinet of First Vice-President of the European Commission Frans Timmermans advised using the Fitness Check to repair internal contradiction in 1107/2009: prioritising LRP but omitting special market access procedure blocking, not prioritising LRP
- Unnecessary delay by making Fitness Check part of Refit of entire 1107/2009: a lengthy process of 8+ years
- The European Parliament and all stakeholders will demand adaptation of 1107/2009 to deliver LRPs in 2-3 years: priority Fitness Check that can later be integrated in REFIT review of 1107/2009



# THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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