

## Re – Brussels EU Pesticide Legislation

The outcome of the EU Parliamentary vote about 2 weeks ago is now becoming clearer. There will be an opportunity to talk about it further when we hopefully see you on the 12<sup>th</sup> February, but until then, we thought the outline below would be helpful.

Ministers are due to “sign-off” the legislation in the next few weeks and it will (if agreed) then be heading for implementation over a period of time.

The heading for it all is the “EU Thematic Strategy for Pesticides”.

It comprises 4 pieces of legislation

- a) replacement for 91/414 - approvals process
- b) new Sustainable Use Directive
- c) new Statistics Regulation
- d) an amended Machinery directive

The key points are:

a) 91/414 Approval process = Pesticide Authorisation Regulation:-

- the aim is to modernise, rationalise and raise the bar in terms of production and to get the regime to work efficiently
- this will have negative impact on product availability
- i.e. use of “hazard” rather than “risk” criteria
- no clarity yet as to what this means
- Could lose 2,4D, amitrole, bifenthrin, carbendazim, deltamethrin, glufosinate, loxynil, iprodione, penconazole, Picloram, prochloraz, propiconazole, tebuconazole, warfarin.
- Proper scientific criteria to be established to allow proper decisions to be made.
- It is seen as less of an issue for amenity than agriculture (**PWS Comment** - hopefully this is the case but not clear yet)

b) c) d) Sustainable Use Directive – will contain:-

- National Action Plans per sector
- On-going (e.g. CPD, BASIS Professional Register, NROSo) training & certification (e.g. PA’s, BASIS Certificate) will be required for users, distributors and advisers.
- Sprayer testing (every 5 years up to 2020, every 3 years after 2020, knapsacks separate)
- Protection of water and sensitive sites. (**PWS comment** – this sensitive sites part could be a real issue for us all – depending on how it is implemented as it particularly seeks to protect children and the elderly.

- Promotion of integrated approaches (**PWS comment**, this will be a challenge for us all as it basically means some weed control / pest control, etc to be done by non-pesticide means – to be implemented by all professional users by the start of 2014)

#### Next steps

- Ministers to sign off
- Consultation – aiming for “proportionate and practical measures”
- National implementation measures to be developed under the framework of the Governments Pesticide Strategy. (**PWS comment** – this probably means by about the end of 2010.