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## **Belgium EU-28**

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### **Endocrine Disruptor Criteria for Plant Protection Products Adopted**

**Report Categories:**

Agriculture in the News

SP2 - Prevent or Resolve Barriers to Trade that Hinder

U.S. Food and Agricultural Exports

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**Report Highlights:**

Member State experts adopted the draft Regulation to identify endocrine disrupting properties on plant protection products during the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (SCOPAFF) meeting on December 13, 2017. The European Parliament and the Council now have three months (extendable by 1 month) for scrutiny until mid to late March 2018. If not objections are raised, the criteria could enter into force in September or October 2018.

Meanwhile, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) and the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA) have opened a consultation on their draft guidance document on how to implement the draft criteria identifying endocrine disrupting properties under both the Plant Protection Products and the Biocidal Products Regulation. Stakeholders have until January 31, 2018 to comment and EFCHA-EFSA will take this feedback into account when the guidance document is revised.

## **General Information:**

The Commission presented a new draft regulation, following the European Parliament's objection to the previous proposed criteria about the derogation for substances controlling targeted organisms other than vertebrates. It means that these new draft criteria are the same as the previous proposed criteria, but without this controversial paragraph. On December, 13, 2017, the draft Regulation to identify endocrine disrupting properties under Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 (on Plant Protection Products) was adopted at the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (SCOPAFF) meeting. Following the discussion, Member State experts adopted the draft criteria, with 18 Member States were in favor, 3 against and 7 abstaining. The Commission reminded the Committee that it will come forward again with a technical amendment to a derogation under the Plant Protection Products Regulation, once the draft criteria are adopted.

Following Member State experts approval, the Commission sent the draft Regulation to the European Parliament and the Council for 3 months of scrutiny (extendable by 1 month) until mid or late March 2018 in order to examine the draft measure and raise any objections (comitology procedure with scrutiny). The Commission will be able to adopt the measure if no objections are raised, after which it will be published in the Official Journal and later on enter into force, likely in September or October 2018.

Here you can find the updated draft regulation:

[https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/endocrine\\_disruptors/docs/201712\\_ppp\\_draft\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/endocrine_disruptors/docs/201712_ppp_draft_en.pdf)

The only difference between the previous version and this one is the removal of the final paragraph:  
*If the intended plant protection mode of action of the active substance that is being assessed, consists of controlling target organisms other than vertebrates via their endocrine systems, the effects on organisms of the same taxonomic phylum as the targeted one, shall not be considered for the identification of the substance as having endocrine disrupting properties with respect to non-target organisms.*

## **ECHA-EFSA draft guidance**

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) have opened a consultation on their draft guidance document on how to implement the draft criteria identifying endocrine disrupting properties under both the Plant Protection Products and the Biocidal Products Regulation. Stakeholders have until January 31, 2018 to submit their views on the ECHA-EFSA draft guidance. ECHA-EFSA will consider the comments when revising the draft Guidance, followed by final consultation and endorsement by EFSA. Competent scientific bodies consisting of representatives of Member States' Competent Authorities for biocidal products and the Standing Committee for Plants, Animals, Food and Feed would be consulted on a revised version of the guidance document, which would address the views expressed during the public consultation. The guidance document is supposed to be finalized by June 2018.

The public consultation can be found here: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/press/news/171207>

The Commission also stated that this guidance document would potentially be used in a later stage when the criteria identifying endocrine disrupting properties are implemented in other subject areas as well, such as cosmetics, toys etc., which means that this could be of interest to other U.S. agencies as well.