European Commission

Revision of Fertilisers Regulation (EC) No 2003/2003

RTD Workshop **"Fostering innovative dialogue between researchers and stakeholders to meet future challenges: Land, Soil, Desertification, Urban and Community-Based Environmental Management"**

Chemical and microbial Contaminants in Fertilisers and related products

10th June 2013

European Commission

Why changing the Fertilisers Regulation ?

- **Extend** the scope : all fertilisers sub-categories should be covered = **FULL HARMONIZATION**
- **Combat reluctance** of authorities and some economic operators to apply **the Mutual Recognition Regulation** for 'national fertilisers'
- **Address safety concerns (environmental +human health)**
- **Safeguard innovation**

Likely extension of the scope to…

From mineral fertilisers and liming materials towards…..:

- Organic fertilisers: e.g. digestates, manure
- Soil improvers: liming materials (including industrial by-products) peat, composts, bio-char
- Growing media
- Plant biostimulants (improving nutrient uptake and nutrient use performance)
- Fertilisers additives (improving the environmental fingerprint of fertilisers on the environment)

More harmonization through common quality criteria !

Quality criteria, for each product category, where relevant:

- ***define minimum nutrient contents for fertilisers***
- ***define minimum organic matter content for soil improvers***
- ***identify the forms of nutrients to be declared : e.g. various forms of N and P, hence, facilitating a.o. farmers implementation of Nitrate Directive and soil needs***

More harmonisation through common safety criteria?

1. Safety criteria: defining maximum contaminants contents:

- ***Heavy metals: Cd, Ni, CrVI, Hg, Pb, As + Cu, Zn (manure !)***
- ***Organic contaminants: PCBs or PAHs***
- ***Microbial contaminants***
- ***Plant propagules***
- ***Physical impurities***
- ***Review process for any relevant contaminants***

2. Maximum contaminants loads: up to MS to define

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The potential contribution of future Fertilisers Regulation

1. Facilitate access to market for innovative fertilising materials, e.g. for better targeted fertilising materials, or for products issued from recycling materials

2. Ensuring:
   - **Minimum quality standards**
   - **Minimum safety standards**

3. Inform about nature of nutrients, aiming at improving the farming practices and compliance with environmental obligations

The challenges

- Circular Economy will favour recycling of waste materials: sewage sludge, manure, industrial wastes, digestates
- Sustainable use of Phosphorus: green paper
- Support of research to optimise the recycling of bio-waste materials (e.g. FERTIPLUS and REFERTIL projects)
- Plant biostimulants/additives: new modes of action, new risks? Data requirements and innovative registration procedure.

The challenges (2)

- Current proposed safety limits: mainly based on current practices in MS and existing or upcoming Union legislation, such as ABP Regulation, EoW criteria for bio-wastes (composts and digestates)
- **Risk-based contaminants limits** are preferable in the longer term: WE NEED RESEARCH SUPPORT !
- Potential call in HORIZON 2020 – Specific Programme for Societal Challenge 2: FOOD SECURITY, SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, MARINE AND MARITIME RESEARCH AND THE BIO-ECONOMY : "Study on contaminants for fertilising materials and related potential risks for plants, food chain and the environment."

Timing for adoption of proposal…

- Impact assessment report under finalisation
- Commission proposal adopted during the 2nd semester 2013
- Adoption by the European Parliament and the Council in ordinary regulatory procedure (up to 2 years)
- Revised Regulation published in 2015. Transitional provisions will have to be foreseen

Thanks for your attention !

For further information:

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Please consult also:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/chemicals/documents/specific-chemicals/fertilisers/index_en.htm