

# 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



#### 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



# The potential contribution of future Fertilisers Regulation

 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)

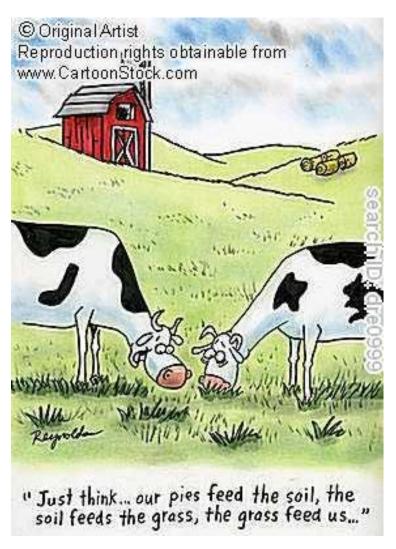
- Current proposed safety limits: mainly based on current practices in MS and existing or upcoming Union legislation, such as ABP Regulation, EoW criteria for bio-wastes (composts and digestates)
- Risk-based contaminants limits are preferable in the longer term: WE NEED RESEARCH SUPPORT!
- Potential 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...

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





# Thanks for your attention!

For further information: eric.liegeois@ec.europa.eu

#### Please consult also:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/ chemicals/documents/specificchemicals/fertilisers/index\_en.htm