BTO – Presentation at COCERAL - meeting of the Food and Feed Safety Section meeting
5 December 2017

Participants:
Staff from the COCERAL Secretariat and representatives of national member organisations (including from DE, AT, FR, IT, SK, HU)

DG SANTE

COCERAL has invited DG SANTE for a presentation at the meeting of the organisation’s Food and Feed Safety Section, in particular on the following current topics in pesticides legislation:
- glyphosate
- endocrine disruptors
- neonicotinoids
- impacts of cut-off values in the pesticides Regulation on MRLs and import tolerances
- REFIT of the pesticides and MRL Regulations

In the discussion following the presentation, COCEARL Secretariat staff and members expressed grave concerns about the way in which the decision on the renewal of the approval of glyphosate had been taken, strongly calling for decisions to be based on objective scientific criteria and evidence, rather than political considerations. The same applied in their view for the impending decisions on neonicotinoids. COCERAL announced that the organisation would, together with many others, soon write to President Juncker to express their strong support for innovation and science/evidence-based decision-making. COCERAL also strongly criticised DG SANTE’s initial intentions as to the handling of import tolerance requests for substances falling under the cut-off criteria of the pesticides Regulation, deeming an outright refusal based on hazard classification incompatible with both, the principles of the MRL Regulation and the WTO SPS agreement.

DG SANTE agreed that the decision-making process for the renewal of approval of glyphosate gave reasons for concern, as despite agreement at technical level among all Member States about the positive outcome of the assessment, many Member States (and also the European Parliament and stakeholders) took politically motivated positions. DG SANTE noted that both for glyphosate and neonicotinoids, the Commission strictly followed the scientific advice provided by EFSA. With regard to the criticism voiced concerning the proposed approach for dealing with import tolerance requests for substances falling under the cut-off criteria, DG SANTE informed that after discussions with Member States on the initial proposal, and in the light of the reactions from stakeholders and third countries, further reflections were ongoing in view of defining a Commission approach.