Participants

Bayer:

Commission
N. Chaze

Meeting was requested by Bayer, with objective to introduce the endpoints, . A number of topics were raised:

1. Endocrine disruptors
Bayer considers technical amendment to annex as crucial, furthermore potency important. We urged them to reconsider position and to accept the proposed option based on WHO definition alone as this would address the current uncertainty due to the interim criteria. The derogation should be discussed at a later stage once criteria are adopted. NC stressed that derogation is an institutional issue for Parliament; this view is not shared by Bayer. Bayer would favour if COM could consider to open discussion on CMR as well in case derogation is discussed at a later stage.

2. NNI
Bayer disappointed about plans of SANTE to restrict use of NNI further and questioned the EFSA assessment. No further discussions, as we referred to ongoing Court case.

3. Import tolerances
Bayer enquired about application of cut-off criteria for imports. We clarified that MRLs do not distinguish between origin of products and that objective of legislation is to protect consumers against cut-off substances and their residues in food, again independently of their origin. Bayer express concern that this would not only affect their business in the EU but also in Third countries exporting to the EU. Bayer certain that this will be challenged at WTO.

4. Acquisition Monsanto
Bayer sees this as an excellent opportunity to extend business to areas outside crop protection, namely to biologics, seeds and digital farming. The portfolio and the geographical markets of both companies are
complementary. Another driver for the acquisition were the increasing R&D costs.