Subject: International Hop Growers' Convention (IHGC) Resolution

Thank you for your email dated 28 November 2018 in which you attach the International Hop Growers' Convention (IHGC) Resolution on plant protection products.

Let me reassure you that the Commission is aware of the points raised in this Resolution concerning the importance of plant protection products for hop growers, for farmers in general and for the competitiveness of this sector within the EU, but also the need to have diverse plant protection products to avoid resistance.

Please let me remind you that the Commission is obliged to implement the Regulation on plant protection products as agreed by the European Parliament and the Council in 2009. Consequently, if it cannot be demonstrated that an active substance satisfies the strict approval criteria enshrined in the legislation, it cannot be approved for use in the EU. However, the hazard-based cut-off criteria that you refer to are not absolute as for most of them derogation possibilities exist, i.e. when it can be demonstrated that there is negligible exposure to humans or that the substance concerned is indispensable to control a serious danger to plant health.

The Commission is aware that there are concerns expressed at international level on the EU pesticide policy and in particular whether import tolerances can be established for substances, which are not authorised in the EU due to the cut-off criteria in Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009. The procedures for applying for import tolerances for such substances are laid down in Regulation (EC) No 396/2005. These include a risk assessment by an Evaluating EU Member State and a scientific opinion by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). The granting of an import tolerance will then be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Commission and the Member States in the light of the outcome of the risk assessment and taking into account all relevant factors.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]