

30/11/2017

European Parliament decision on setting up a Special Committee on the renewal of the approval of glyphosate in the EU and the EU authorisation process of pesticides

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal for a decision of the Conference of Presidents,
- having regard to Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market and repealing Council Directives 79/117/EEC and 91/414/EEC,
- having regard to Commission Regulation (EU) No 546/2011 of 10 June 2011 implementing Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards uniform principles for evaluation and authorisation of plant protection products,
- having regard to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/1056 of 29 June 2016 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) No 540/2011 as regards the extension of the approval period of the active substance glyphosate,
- having regard to the various draft Commission implementing regulations intending to renew the approval of the active substance glyphosate in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market, and amending the Annex to Implementing Regulation (EU) No 540/2011,
- having regard to its resolutions of 13 April 2016 and of 24 October 2017 on the respective draft Commission implementing regulation renewing the approval of the active substance glyphosate in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market, and amending the Annex to Implementing Regulation (EU) No 540/2011,
- having regard to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/1313 amending Implementation Regulation (EU) No 540/2011 as regards the conditions of approval of the active substance glyphosate,
- having regard to Commission implementing regulation EU .../... renewing the approval of the active substance glyphosate in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market, and amending the Annex to Implementing Regulation (EU) No 540/2011,
- having regard to the public hearing "The Monsanto Papers and Glyphosate" of 11 October 2017 in the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety and the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development,

- having regard to the public hearing of the European Citizens' Initiative “Ban Glyphosate and Protect People and the Environment from Toxic Pesticides” organised by the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety with association of the Committee on Petitions, the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy and the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development of 20 November 2017,
 - having regard to the decision of the European Ombudsman in case 12/2013/MDC on the practices of the European Commission regarding the authorisation and placing on the market of plant protection products (pesticides),
 - having regard to Regulation (EU) no 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission’s exercise of implementing powers,
 - having regard to Rule 197 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas concerns have been raised about the assessment of glyphosate by the Rapporteur Member State, the European Food Safety Authority and the Risk Assessment Committee of the European Chemicals Agency, notably whether an independent, objective and transparent assessment has taken place, whether the classification criteria of Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures have been properly applied, and whether relevant guidance documents have been properly used,
- B. whereas concerns have been raised with regard to the application of the approval criteria and the non-application of the precautionary principle of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 by the Commission when granting the technical extension of the approval of Glyphosate in 2016, when adopting Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/1313 as regards the conditions of approval of the active substance glyphosate, and when adopting Implementing Regulation (EU) .../... renewing the approval of the active substance glyphosate and amending the Annex to Implementing Regulation (EU) No 540/2011,
1. Decides to set up a special committee on the EU authorisation process of pesticides, vested with the following strictly defined responsibilities:
- a) analyse and assess the authorisation process of pesticides in the EU, its methodology, scientific quality, its independence from the industry, its transparency, decision-making and outcome;
 - b) analyse and assess, in line with the concept of evidence-based approach, the potential failures that might have arisen with regard to the scientific evaluation of the approval/renewal of the approval of active substances such as for example glyphosate by the relevant EU Agencies, and their respect of EU regulations, relevant guidelines and codes of conduct in force;
 - c) analyse and assess in particular whether the Commission has acted in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 in its decisions with regard to the the conditions of approval of glyphosate and the renewal of the approval of glyphosate;

- d) assess allegations of undue influence over the EU approval of glyphosate;
- e) analyse and assess possible conflict of interest at all levels with regard to the approval process, including national bodies in charge of the assessment report in their role as rapporteur Member State;
- f) analyse and assess whether the EU Agencies responsible for the evaluation and classification of active substances are adequately staffed and financed to fulfil their obligations, and the possibilities of commissioning and/or conducting independent research and testing, and the financing thereof;
- g) make any recommendations that it deems necessary with regard to the EU authorisation process of pesticides to achieve a high level of protection of both human and animal health and the environment, and, to this end, make visits and hold hearings with the European Union institutions and relevant agencies, with international and national institutions, non-governmental organisations or private bodies;
2. Stresses that any recommendation of the special committee shall be followed-up by the competent standing committees;
 3. Decides that the powers, staff and available resources of Parliament's standing committees with responsibility for matters concerning the adoption, monitoring and implementation of Union legislation relating to the area of responsibility of the special committee remain unchanged;
 4. Decides that whenever the special committee work includes hearing of evidences of classified nature, testimonies comprising personal data, or exchange of views or hearings with authorities and bodies on classified information, the meetings should be held in camera; decides that witnesses and experts shall have the right to make a statement or provide testimony in camera;
 5. Decides that the list of people invited to public meetings, the list of those who attend them as well as the minutes of such meetings shall be made public;
 6. Decides that classified documents, which have been received by the special committee, shall be assessed under the procedure set out in Rule 210a of its Rules of Procedure to ensure that only the Chair, rapporteur, shadow rapporteurs, coordinators and designated officials, have personal access to them, and that such information shall be used exclusively for the purposes of drawing up the final report of the special committee;
 7. Decides that the special committee shall have XX members, representing the political composition of the Parliament;
 8. Decides that the term of office of the special committee shall be 12 months, except where Parliament extends that period before its expiry, and that its term of office shall start running from the date of its constituent meeting; decides that the special committee shall present to

Parliament a final report containing factual findings and recommendations concerning the measures and initiatives to be taken.

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