

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000514/25
to the Commission
Cristina Guarda (Verts/ALE)
(5 February 2025)

Subject: Adjuvants and their toxicity in plant protection products

Regulation (EC) 1107/2009 ⁽¹⁾ on plant protection products aims to ensure a high level of protection for human and animal health and the environment. Adjuvants, used to enhance the ‘efficacy’ of active substances in plant protection products, can increase their toxicity to humans and the environment. They still lack a harmonised risk assessment framework across Member States, as required under Article 58 of the regulation. Article 58 explicitly mandates the adoption of a regulation detailing ‘data requirements, notification, evaluation, assessment and decision-making procedures’ for the authorisation of adjuvants. Fifteen years after the adoption of Regulation (EC) 1107/2009, the Commission has proposed no such regulation.

1. Is the Commission currently working on a proposal to implement Article 58 of Regulation (EC) 1107/2009?
2. If so, what is the status of this work? If work is ongoing, can the Commission provide the anticipated timeline for presenting its proposal? If work on a proposal has not yet been initiated, could the Commission justify the delay and provide an estimated timeline for when it plans to initiate it?

Submitted: 5.2.2025

Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(20 June 2025)

The Commission would like to recall that, in light of the limited resources available to the Commission and to the Member States, it had to prioritise the various activities required for the full implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 ⁽¹⁾ on plant protection products.

The highest priority has been given to the implementation of actions related to the approval and renewal of approval of active substances, followed by actions related to the identification of co-formulants that are unacceptable in plant protection products (Article 27 of the regulation) and, most recently, the development of a work programme for the assessment of safeners and synergists (Article 26 of the regulation).

At present, a significant amount of available resources must be dedicated to responding to requests for internal review of its decisions related to active substances submitted under the provisions of Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 1367/2006 ⁽²⁾ on the application of the Aarhus Convention and subsequent cases in Court, for which tight legal deadlines apply.

Article 58 of the regulation does not set a deadline for the development of detailed rules for the authorisation of adjuvants at EU level and at this stage, a timeline for such procedure is not available.

In the meantime, in accordance with Article 81(3) of the regulation, Member States may apply national provisions for their authorisation in their territories.

¹ Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of 21 October 2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2009/1107/oj>.

⁽¹⁾ 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. OJ L 309, 24.11.2009, p. 1-50.

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EC) No 1367/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 September 2006 on the application of the provisions of the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters to Community institutions and bodies. OJ L 264, 25.9.2006, p. 13-19.