

(English version)

Question for written answer E-003394/25
to the Commission
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(3 September 2025)

Subject: Lower maximum acetamiprid residue levels laid down in Regulation (EU) 2025/158

The recent entry into force of the new Regulation (EU) 2025/158, which lowers the maximum residue limit for acetamiprid from 0.4 to 0.07 mg/kg, is causing great difficulty for Italian and European fruit growers, already mired in an unprecedented crisis and in need of effective plant protection tools to safeguard their farms' production capacity.

Acetamiprid is one of the few active ingredients that has proven truly effective in combating the brown marmorated stink bug (*Halyomorpha halys*) and a new invasive species of beetle (*Popillia japonica*) that is spreading in Italy.

Given the pressing need to ascertain the effects of active substances on human health and the environment, the way in which they are used must also be examined to safeguard Europe's production capacity,

can the Commission:

1. Look into, as a matter of urgency, the impact of reducing the maximum acetamiprid residues, while seeking an equally effective active ingredient to put forward for use in combating pests as part of a truly effective plant-protection strategy?
2. Involve Member States and European regions, especially those engaged in fruit and vegetable production, in the collection and sharing of technical data on which basis to identify territorial priorities with a view to the revision of current legislation on plant protection?

Submitted: 3.9.2025

Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(21 November 2025)

The decision to lower Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) for acetamiprid in several products was guided by a comprehensive evaluation by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) which identified risks to consumer health from the existing MRLs.

Following a vote by Member States in the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (SCoPAFF) and scrutiny by the Council and the European Parliament, the Commission adopted a regulation ⁽¹⁾ with a deferred application of six months ⁽²⁾ to allow food business operators to adapt by 19 August 2025. Applications for revision of MRLs in specific crops can be submitted under the provisions of Article 6 of the MRL Regulation ⁽³⁾ at any time.

Decisions on (renewal of) approval of active substances and on MRLs are based on EFSA evaluations and are taken by the Commission together with the Member States after careful consideration of all available relevant information, including from stakeholders.

Intentions of regulatory changes are shared well in advance of the adoption of Regulations (e.g. through SCoPAFF meetings) so that stakeholders have time to prepare.

Acetamiprid is an approved active substance. Member States can grant authorisations for plant protection products (PPPs) containing it, including via emergency authorisations in urgent situations involving new pests or invasive species when no other reasonable means are available.

As announced in the Vision for Agriculture and Food ⁽⁴⁾, the Commission is preparing a legislative proposal by end 2025 for simplifying and clarifying the regulatory framework for PPPs.

It aims in particular at accelerating market access for biocontrol solutions as alternatives to chemical pesticides. A call for evidence ⁽⁵⁾ to collect the views of stakeholders ended on 14 October 2025.

⁽¹⁾ Commission Regulation (EU) 2025/158 of 29 January 2025 amending Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards maximum residue levels for acetamiprid in or on certain products (OJ L, 2025/158, 30.1.2025, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2025/158/oj>).

⁽²⁾ https://food.ec.europa.eu/plants/pesticides/maximum-residue-levels/qas-pesticides_en.

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 February 2005 on maximum residue levels of pesticides in or on food and feed of plant and animal origin and amending Council Directive 91/414/EEC (OJ L 70, 16.3.2005, pp. 1-16, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2005/396/oj>).

⁽⁴⁾ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/overview-vision-agriculture-food/vision-agriculture-and-food_en.

⁽⁵⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14824-Food-and-feed-safety-simplification-omnibus_en.