(English version)

Question for written answer E-001845/26
to the Commission
Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy (Renew)
(6 May 2026)

Subject: Food and Feed Safety Omnibus: societal costs and scientific assessment

I have reviewed the Commission's reply regarding Written Question P-000703-2026 ([1]) on the Food and Feed Safety Omnibus, in particular the proposed changes to Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009. I note that Question 3 was not addressed, which leads me to assume that societal costs are not being considered as a parameter for this proposal.

In the light of the response provided, I would like to seek clarification on the following points:

1. The Commission states that the level of protection will increase. On which scientific assessments or criteria is this claim based?

2. Given the Commission's recent statement during a Dutch Parliament hearing that 'the proof is in the pudding' and thus that it cannot pre-empt conclusions on the proposal's health and environmental impacts, how does this approach align with the Commission's claim that the proposal could increase the level of protection, as stated in its answer to Written Question P-00703-2026?

3. How does it interpret the findings of the scientific assessment commissioned by the Dutch Parliament on the effects of the Food and Feed Safety Omnibus ([2]), and would the Commission be able to provide a written response to this scientific assessment?

Submitted: 6.5.2026

Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(9 July 2026)

As outlined in the Staff Working Document ([1]) accompanying the Food and Feed Safety Simplification Package ([2]), 'the current level of protection for human and animal health and the environment will be maintained and can be expected to increase'.

In particular, the more agile approach proposed for selecting substances to undergo a full renewal procedure or targeted reassessment is expected to result in an accelerated uptake of new scientific or technical knowledge and a more rapid response to emerging issues.

It should also be recalled that in the current system, substantial delays occur in practically all renewal procedures, which therefore also lead to delays in potentially necessary regulatory action.

The expected improvements will depend on the outcome of the negotiations between co-legislators and the subsequent implementation.

Furthermore, accelerating market access for biocontrol-based plant protection products is expected to lead to the replacement of products containing chemical active substances, improving sustainability and reducing risks from the use of plant protection products.

The Commission would like to note that with its proposal it intends to reduce administrative burdens by streamlining procedures, clarifying and harmonising rules and allowing Member States to re-assign limited available resources from renewal procedures to the assessment of innovative solutions.

In line with one of the recommendations of the assessment commission by the Dutch parliament, the proposal thus precisely intends to achieve a 'smarter' reassessment system to address the systematic delays by proposing structural changes and recognising that significant resource increases in Member States are unlikely.

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1 https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/P-10-2026-000703-ASW_EN.html.
2 https://parlementenwetenschap.nl/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/260420_EU-wetenschapstoets_Vereenvoudigingspakket_voedsel-_en_dierveiligheid_def.pdf.
([1]) https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/863722d6-85d9-4273-b1f6-475b1bcde200_en?filename=horiz_omnibus_2025-1030_swd_en.pdf : see in particular p.15 to 24.
([2]) https://food.ec.europa.eu/horizontal-topics/simplification-legislation_en.