

EN

P-003269/2025

Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(16.10.2025)

The assessment of active substances by the Commission is based on the Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009¹, which does not require the Commission to carry out a comprehensive assessment evaluating the availability of alternatives or the impact on production costs when restricting or withdrawing the approval of active substances.

However, the Joint Research Centre did conduct a study to evaluate how farmers reacted to the 2013 restrictions². Furthermore, the Commission did consider the availability of other approved insecticides, but an overview of alternatives for each crop is not available as plant protection products and their uses are authorised at Member State's level.

Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 does also not require the Commission to publish a follow-up report of the restrictions on neonicotinoids and, given that the approval of clothianidin, thiamethoxam and imidacloprid expired after the withdrawal of the application for renewal of approval by the respective applicants, a reassessment of the restrictions on neonicotinoids is currently not planned either.

However, in the Vision for Agriculture and Food³, the Commission committed to carefully consider any further ban of pesticides if alternatives are not yet available, unless the pesticide in question represents a threat to human health or to the environment.

The historic development of yields, area and prices is available on the Agri food portal⁴ which gives a comprehensive overview of the general production data for the EU since 2002. Furthermore, FAOSTAT⁵ makes an estimate of post-harvest losses per commodity category (e.g. 2.8 million tonnes of 'wheat and products' for EU27 in 2022).

¹ OJ L 309, 24.11.2009, p. 1.

² <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC103967>.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0075>.

⁴ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/data-and-analysis/markets_en.

⁵ <https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/FBS>.