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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(27.3.2026)

According to Article 2(1)(a) of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 on the placing on the market of plant protection products (the PPP Regulation)[1], products intended to protect plants or plant products against harmful organisms or preventing the action of such organisms are plant protection products. The decisive legal criterion is the intended plant protection function, and no exemption is foreseen for products that operate by means of a physical mechanism.

The question referred to by the Honourable Member of whether the product is within the scope of the PPP Regulation, was discussed with the Member States in the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed – Section phytopharmaceuticals legislation[2]. The Member States agreed with the conclusion that in light of the existing legal definitions, the product must be considered to be a PPP and must be authorised as such before it can be used.

The objective referred to in the Vision for Agriculture and Food[3] to accelerate access to the market for safer active substances does not affect the obligation to maintain the high level of safety standards of the PPP Regulation. This also applies to products such as Siltac which were never assessed for their safety until now. Socio-economic considerations related to the conclusion that Siltac is a PPP were taken into account in the discussions with Member States, in particular the need to provide sufficient time for companies marketing the product to prepare and submit the necessary application.

[1] http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2009/1107/oj.
[2] See report of the Committee, point A.12 at: https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/3e779648-c268-48fc-97f2-27b5efaf49f9_en?filename=sc_phyto_20250709_ppl_sum.pdf.
[3] https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/overview-vision-agriculture-food/vision-agriculture-and-food_en.