

EN
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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(23.4.2026)

Under Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009¹ active substances used in plant protection products (PPPs) can only be approved if a comprehensive scientific assessment conducted by Member States and the European Food Safety Authority demonstrates their use is not expected to have harmful effects on human or animal health nor unacceptable effects on the environment.

The Food and Feed Safety Omnibus does not propose to change the strict approval criteria for active substances or the requirements for PPPs. It intends to increase procedural efficiency by replacing periodic renewal procedures for most active substances with reviews, when there are indications for its need, via the work programmes for full renewals or targeted reassessments².

Under the current legal framework, most substances are approved for a period of up to 15 years. However, due to resource constraints in the Member States, many renewal procedures are greatly delayed, resulting in extensions of existing approvals for sometimes considerable periods. New scientific guidance is only applied at the time of renewal. With the proposed targeted reassessments, substances can be reviewed earlier when new science becomes available.

The Commission's proposal does not affect the ongoing procedures to review the approval of 25 of 30 currently approved PFAS³ active substances, another will start soon⁴. Decisions on the approval period for these substances will only be taken after completion of these renewal procedures. The study results on PFAS pollution societal costs cannot be directly compared to economic impacts in each sector.

The Commission thus considers that the Food and Feed Simplification Package maintains and even improves the current high level of protection.

¹ Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and the Council concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market, OJ L 309, 24.11.2009, p. 1.

² See the amended Article 18 and new Article 18a, proposed for Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 in the Food and Feed Simplification Package.

³ Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

⁴ Application for renewal of approval is due in April 2026.