



# 4th Joint Workshop of the European Union Reference Laboratories - 23rd - 25th October 2013

## Current activities of the European Commission in the area of pesticide residues

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*Introduction*

*Main challenges in the area of pesticides residues*

- **MRL setting**
- **Cumulative risk assessment**
- **Endocrine disruptors**
- **Amendment Reg. 396/2005**
- **Multiannual Control Programme**

*News from FVO*

*Questions*



# Main challenges in the area of pesticides residues (1)

## *MRL setting under Regulation (EC) No. 396/2005*

- Evaluation of new applications to set or modify specific MRLs (Art. 10)
- Management of unforeseen situations:  
Substances regulated under Reg. 396/2005 are found in food at levels above the MRL, but do not necessarily originate from pesticides use
- Review of existing MRLs for 330 substances in 316 commodities (Art.12 review)



# Main challenges in the area of pesticides residues (1)

## *MRL setting under Regulation (EC) No. 396/2005*

- Art. 12 review: **LOQs** are updated
  - Input from EFSA and EU RLs
    - EU RLs take into account the LOQs that are feasible for a majority of the labs
  - 2 different LOQs in 1 commodity group
  - New or updated analytical methods provided by EU RLs



# Main challenges in the area of pesticides residues (1)

## *MRL setting under Regulation (EC) No. 396/2005*

- Art. 12 review: **residue definitions** are updated
  - Input from EU RLs in stage of draft reasoned opinion
  - Footnote that standards should be made available
  - Inclusion of salts in the residue definition



# Main challenges in the area of pesticides residues (2)

## *Cumulative risk assessment*

- Reg. 396/2005
  - Recital 6: *'It is also important to carry out further work to develop a methodology to take into account cumulative and synergistic effects'*
  - Art. 14: *'When setting MRLs account shall be taken of their known cumulative and synergistic effects, when the methods to assess such effects are available'*
- EFSA: development of a methodology for the assessment of multiple residues
- Acropolis group: development on-line IT tool
- COM: discussing on risk management issues by electronic working group of MS experts (2014)



# Main challenges in the area of pesticides residues (2-3)

## *Endocrine disruptors*

- Reg. (EC) 1107/2009 on plant protection products and Reg. (EU) No. 528/2012 on biocides require the setting of criteria to identify active substances with endocrine disrupting properties.
- COM is developing criteria to identify endocrine disruptors.
- Criteria may impact MRL and import tolerance setting



# Main challenges in the area of pesticides residues (4)

## *Amendment of Reg. 396/2005*

- Biocides
  - New draft Regulation on Biocides (DG ENV)
  - Amendment of Reg. 396/2005 to include residues of biocides beyond dual-use substances.
- Different MRLs set for one substance under different acts
  - Streamline procedures for adoption of MRLs
  - Clarifications concerning overlaps in legislation



# Main challenges in the area of pesticides residues (5)

## *2015-2017 multiannual control programme of the Union*

- *Expert group meeting pesticides monitoring 04/10/2013*
  - Input from MS, EU RLs, EFSA and FVO
- *Draft Regulation SCOFCAH 18-19/11/2013*
- *Vote February 2014*



# Main challenges in the area of pesticides residues (5)

## *2015-2017 multiannual control programme of the Union*

- *Selection criteria for pesticides*
  - Findings in previous monitoring programmes: risk based approach
  - New authorisations
  - Toxicity
  - Recent information on potential health risks
  - Analytical difficulty
- *Selection criteria for commodities*
  - Major components of the diet of the EU in 3-year cycles (consumer exposure assessment)



# Main challenges in the area of pesticides residues (5)

## *2015-2017 multiannual control programme of the Union*

- *Food for infants and small children*
  - Monitoring 2015 according to residue definition Reg. 396/2005
  - Reg. 609/2013 requires that Dir.2006/125 and 2006/141 on food for infants and small children will be replaced by delegated acts by July 2015
    - Residue definition of this legislation will be brought in line with Reg. 396/2005
    - Use of monitoring data to update Annex VI and VII of Dir.2006/125 and Annex VIII and IX of Dir. 2006/141.



## News from FVO

### *FVO audits on pesticide controls: Member States*

- 2007-2011: audit series on **pesticide residues** controls  
Overview Report published on SANCO homepage
- 2012-2014: audit series on controls for **marketing and use** of plant protection products (PPP); follow-up on recommendations for pesticide residues



# News from FVO

## *FVO audits on pesticide controls: Third Countries*

- Audits targeted at countries with identified risk:
  - High trade volume
  - RASFF notifications
  - Member State control data via EFSA



## News from FVO

### *FVO audits on pesticide controls: Third Countries*

- 2013-01: Morocco: mint and beans;
- 2013-04: Turkey: peppers
- 2013-10: China: tea
- 2013-11: Kenya: peas and beans



## News from FVO

### *FVO audits on pesticide controls: Third Countries*

- 2014 priority: Thailand: brassica, aubergine, beans, basil and coriander leaves;
- 2014 priority: Vietnam: okra, pepper, basil, coriander leaves, mint and parsley;



## News from FVO

### *FVO audits on pesticide controls: Third Countries*

- Focus FVO audits in Third Countries on **tea, basil, coriander leaves, mint, parsley**;
- These FVO audits are prioritised based on non-compliances identified by Member States;
- These commodities were included in Regulation 669/2009 on **import controls**;



## News from FVO

### *FVO audits on pesticide controls: Task for NRLs*

Ensure that:

- Laboratories designated for import controls are part of the national NRL networks;
- Analytical methods validated/accredited for **tea, basil, coriander leaves, mint, parsley**;



# Questions

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