Council of the European Union

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COVER NOTE

From:	Secretary-General of the European Commission, signed by Ms Martine DEPREZ, Director
date of receipt:	21 February 2024
To:	Ms Thérèse BLANCHET, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union
Subject:	Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the sustainable use of plant protection products and amending Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 - Commission letter announcing the withdrawal of the proposal by 31 March 2024

Delegations will find attached the letter sent by the Commission to the European Parliament President and to the Belgian Presidency of the Council, announcing the withdrawal of the above proposal by 31 March 2024.

Encl.:

Ref. Ares(2024)1340994 -

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Maroš Šefčovič
Executive Vice-President

Brussels, 21/02/2024

Dear President Metsola, Dear Deputy Permanent Representative Cartuyvels,

On 22 June 2022, the Commission adopted a proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the sustainable use of plant protection products and amending Regulation (EU) 2021/2115[1]. On 22 November 2023, the European Parliament rejected the proposal as amended in plenary and called on the Commission to withdraw its proposal[2]. The Council continued its first reading, with divergent views expressed by the Member States.

The proposal had the worthy aim of reducing the risks of chemical plant protection products. However, it has become a symbol of polarization. It has been rejected by the European Parliament and there is no progress in the Council. While the topic remains relevant, further dialogue and a different approach is needed. Therefore, the Commission intends to withdraw the proposal by 31 March 2024.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Roberta Metsola
President of the European Parliament

Mr Pierre Cartuyvels, Deputy Permanent Representative
Permanent representation of Belgium to the European Union

cc: Pascal Canfin, Chair of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

[1] COM(2022) 305 final

[2] P9_TA(2023)0424