



Conseil de
l'Union européenne

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NOTE

Origine:	Secrétariat général du Conseil
Destinataire:	Conseil
Objet:	Alternatives aux produits phytosanitaires à usage agricole et non agricole (cas du glyphosate)

Les délégations trouveront en annexe une note sur le sujet susmentionné qui sera traitée sous "Divers" lors de la session du Conseil ("Agriculture et pêche") du 21 mars 2022.

**Alternatives to plant protection products for use in agricultural and non-agricultural land
(Glyphosate case)****- Background note for an AOB point requested by SLOVENIA**

The number of available products in the market for pest, pathogen and weed control is diminishing due to strict authorisation criteria and high health and environment protection standards. In addition, Directive 2009/128/EC on sustainable use of pesticides requires Member States to implement reduction targets for pesticide use.

Slovenia has been fully committed to the environmental and health aspects in the use of pesticides. In line with this approach, the use of all plant protection products in public areas and the use of herbicides, i.e. glyphosate, on roads and railways has been banned. Currently, instead of herbicide use on railways and roads, mowing is used to regulate the weed vegetation. This has proven to be an ineffective substitute for the use of herbicides, as it leaves the root system of weeds unaffected. In addition, it is time-consuming and has to be performed several times per year.

With the ambitious goals of the Farm to Fork Strategy and the upcoming pesticides legislation, the use of pesticides is expected to be further reduced. If no viable alternatives to the existing chemical plant protection are available, users will be left without appropriate means for weed, pathogen and pest control. The above mentioned case of the undesired practical consequences of the glyphosate ban is just one example. Despite the search for its alternatives, the use of glyphosate in maintenance of road and railway infrastructure has proven to be the most effective means for safety and economic reasons.

Against this backdrop, we would like to encourage that the efforts of Member States and the Commission to align the use of the existing plant protection products with the environmental and sustainability ambitions, are accompanied and supported by research into alternative methods to chemical plant protection. Decisions to further reduce the use of chemical plant protection products should take into account the availability of non-chemical alternative plant protection methods.