

Project description: "Thematic Strategy on Sustainable Use of Plant Protection Products – Prospects and Requirements for transferring proposals for Plant Protection Products to Biocides“ (FKZ 3708 63 400)

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1. Background

In June 2006 the "Thematic Strategy on Sustainable Use of Pesticides" was accepted by the European Commission. In its realisation through a Frame Directive on Sustainable Use of Pesticides it aims to minimise hazards and risks for human health and the environment through the use of pesticides. Among the measures proposed are improvements of controls of pesticide application and distribution, substitution of hazardous active substances, enhancement of cultivation methods with reduced use or free of pesticide use and improvement of risk perception of users. Up to now the pesticides Thematic Strategy mainly focuses on plant protection products. However, the possibility for extending the Thematic Strategy for biocides is kept open. The Biocidal Product Directive and the national Chemical law do not sufficiently consider the use phase of biocidal products. Thus, for biocides there is a particular need of developing measures for the sustainable use of biocides.

2. Project goals

The research proposal aims at identifying possibilities and requirements for transferring the Thematic Strategy on Sustainable Use of Pesticides to the biocide area and to elaborate concrete proposals for exemplary product types (wood preservatives, insecticides, and antifouling agents). Although the sustainable use of biocides covers both measures of occupational and human health as well as the protection of the environment, which can not always be separated, this proposal mainly considers measures for sustainable use of biocides from the environmental point of view. The results of the project will be brought in to the upcoming development and harmonization processes at EC level and will be presented at an EC-workshop.

3. Working plan

3.1 Literature research on sustainable use of biocides

As a basis a systematic internet search and literature research on sustainable use of pesticides

and biocides respectively will be performed. This considers also the evaluation of the extensive EC-publications on the "Thematic Strategy on Sustainable Use of Pesticides" as well as research projects of the German Environmental Agency and the Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (FIOSH).

3.2 Measures for sustainable use of pesticides and its applicability for biocides

The measures proposed within the Frame Directive for the implementation of the „Thematic Strategy on Sustainable Use of Pesticides“ for plant protection products will be compiled while particularly considering use restrictions in sensitive areas on bodies of water. These measures will be examined with respect to their suitability for general biocides and specifically for some product types. An assessment will be carried out as to which measures could be adopted for biocides specifications and which measures are not applicable for biocides. For the product types wood preservatives (PT 8), insecticides (PT 18), and antifouling agents (PT 21) exemplary risk reduction measures will be described.

3.3 Additional measures for sustainable use of biocides

It will be examined which additional measures for the sustainable use of biocides of product types 8, 18, and 21 could be considered. Furthermore gaps in the checklist of measures proposed in the Frame Directive on sustainable use of pesticides will be pointed out and future research requirements in this context will be deduced.

3.4 Accompaniment of a potential Frame Directive or other measures for the sustainable use of biocides

The future development of the EC Commission's approach for sustainable use of biocides will be followed and commented on. After one year the interim results will be discussed with national authorities and representatives of the EC Commission at a one-day workshop where the focus of the remaining work will be decided. In the second half of the project the recommendations of the first workshop will be realised and proposals for a concretisation of the EC-strategy on biocides will be elaborated. These proposals will be presented at a further European wide one-day workshop.

The project duration is from November 2008 till the end of January 2011.