

TONIO BORG

MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels,

Dear Mr Haefeker,

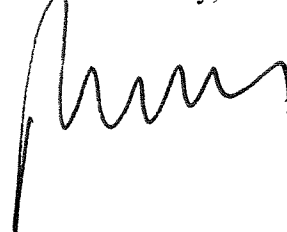
Thank you for your letter of 11 April 2013 in which you indicate that concern has been raised that the EU proposal to amend the conditions of approval of the active substances clothianidin, thiamethoxam and imidacloprid may roll back existing restrictions on the use of these substances in some Member States or may prevent Member States from taking additional measures.

As you already know, the Commission presented to the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health on 14-15 March, a draft measure to restrict the use of the three neonicotinoids namely thiamethoxam, clothianidin and imidacloprid. As this measure was not sufficiently supported by the Member States, the Commission is now referring it to the Appeal Committee, where the chair shall endeavour to find solutions which command the widest possible support within the Committee in accordance with Article 6(2) of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011.

The Commission measure foresees to restrict the seed treatment, granular, and foliar uses of plant protection products containing those substances in bee attractive crops. The bee attractive crops are listed in an Annex to the draft Regulation. However, derogations are provided for seed treatment of winter cereals, for all uses in greenhouses and foliar uses after flowering. In addition, the draft measure foresees a review in light of new scientific data within 2 years and without undue delays. Therefore, if needed, additional measures could be taken in the future.

Furthermore, I would like to reassure you that if Members States believe that further restrictions are needed, they can always recur to the provisions laid down in Articles 49 and 71 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009.

Yours sincerely,



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