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CONTRIBUTION

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Working Party on Agricultural Questions (Pesticides/Plant Protection Products)
N° prev. doc.:	ST 8238/20 + ADD 1
Subject:	Council Conclusions on the REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL On the experience gained by Member States on the implementation of national targets established in their National Action Plans and on progress in the implementation of Directive 2009/128/EC on the sustainable use of pesticides - AT comments

Delegations will find in Annex comments from AT on the revised draft Council Conclusions on the above-mentioned SUD Report.

AT Comments regarding the discussion in the Working Party Agricultural Questions on PPPs (30th October 2020) on the working paper WK 8636/2020 REV 1 Council Conclusions on the REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL On the experience gained by Member States on the implementation of national targets established in their National Action Plans and on progress in the implementation of Directive 2009/128/EC on the sustainable use of pesticides

Subject of the Council Conclusions is the Report from the Commission to the EP on the implementation of the NAP. The Council Conclusions should therefore focus on this report and not address further subjects, such as future targets, which are not formulated in detail yet.

FR proposal to mention reduction targets (-50%) set in the F2F are not subject of the Commission report and should therefore not be included in the Council Conclusions on this Report.

The Commission has not yet provided anything concrete on the reduction targets mentioned in the F2F and biodiversity strategies.

It is important to take into consideration that the quantitative reduction alone does not yet say anything about the actual risk reduction within the framework of the use of plant protection products. Plant protection products for organic farming are mostly used in considerably higher quantities than the plant protection products for conventional farming (they are, however, already effective when applied in lower quantities). The reduction targets mentioned in the F2F still have to be specified.

Therefore AT cannot support the proposal of FR. The same goes for the pollinator initiative. This initiative is also not part of the Commission report and should not be addressed in the Council Conclusions.

AT supports the view of NL regarding fair income for farmers.

We would to thank the Presidency for considering the comments of the MS.

We reserve the right to make additional and detailed comments as soon as the revised conclusions are available.