

**ESA Resolution
on**

**Authorisation of Plant Protection Products for Seed Treatment and Minor Uses
(Revision of Directive 91/414/EC)**

ESA European Seed Association supports an environmentally friendly and consumer safe agricultural production that is efficient, productive and possesses the necessary technology and tools to maintain and sustain its competitive position in the world. The revision of the European Union's legislation for the authorisation of plant protection products (PPP) will play an important role in achieving these goals. It also provides opportunity to facilitate authorisations for the specific use of plant protection products as Seed Treatments (ST) as this application benefits the environment, farmers and growers and society.

Seed Treatments are

- less harmful to the environment using less PPPs in specifically targeted ways,
- safe to workers as chemicals are applied in factory controlled conditions, often handled in closed systems
- safe and easy to use for farmers and growers as they are not handled openly in the field or on the farm.
- less risky to the public as they are applied around the seed, often enclosed in a thin layer, avoiding spray drift and other dispersal

Encouraging research and development of new seed treatment products and their introduction to the market must therefore be an integral part of the EU's policy on a sustainable use of pesticides. The future EU Regulation for authorisation for PPPs should consequently contain specific provisions for this application technology.

The European Seed Association calls upon the European Parliament and the Council to

- improve the authorisation process of PPPs for Seed Treatment and Minor Uses. Speeding up procedures with stringent timetables, decreasing costs and making the outcome of applications more predictable by decision making procedures that avoid deadlocks are crucial to maintain investment into new ST solutions, in particular for Minor Uses and small crops;
- provide for an EU-wide or zonal authorisation procedure for Seed Treatments based on a standard mutual recognition of national approvals. This will assure that treated seed can be marketed according to the EU's Seed Marketing Directives and move freely between Member States;
- exempt authorisations for Seed Treatment from compulsory substitution by more recent products. Compulsory substitution would discourage investment in ST authorisations, in particular for Minor Uses and small scale crops, and may lead to unavailability of plant protection solutions for specific plant health problems.