



## European Seed Association

# PRESS RELEASE

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### **The Seed Industry deeply disappointed with the vote of Environment Committee on Plant Protection Products**

**EP Environment Committee rejects efficient mutual recognition procedure and advocates further cut-off criteria for the authorisation of plant protection products in Europe. MEPs ignore recommendations from farmers, seed and crop protection companies.**

The European Seed Association (ESA) is deeply concerned that the Environment Committee's approach to the revision of the EU's legislation for the authorisation and use of Plant Protection Products (PPPs) will lead to a loss of a significant number of important, in many cases indispensable, products and ultimately to an increase of prices of many important food crops such as vegetables, potatoes or cereals. ESA is convinced that the Council's Common Position provides a better base for improving consumer and environmental protection while taking account of the needs for a competitive and sustainable European agricultural production.

ESA also deeply regrets that the Environment Committee did not support the concept of zonal authorisations proposed by the European Commission and further improved by the Council in its Common Position adopted last September.

An automatic mutual recognition of authorisation between Member States with comparable agricultural conditions would help to reduce application costs, specifically for many small scale and speciality crops and markets, such as minor uses, while ensuring a high level of protection through common European safety standards.

ESA calls on the European Parliament to seriously reconsider the proposal of its Environment Committee in view of these potential negative effects on the future competitiveness of the seed industry and the entire agro-food sector.

For more information, please contact:

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## **ESA**

ESA is the voice of the European seed industry, representing the interests of those active in research, breeding, production and marketing of seeds of agricultural, horticultural and ornamental plant species.

## **Membership**

Its membership consists of more than 50 direct company members and 35 national seed associations standing for several hundreds of seed enterprises all over Europe, the vast majority of them being small and medium sized businesses (SMEs).

## **Mission**

ESA's mission is to work for effective protection of intellectual property rights relating to plants and seeds, fair and proportionate regulation of the European seed industry and freedom of choice for customers (farmers, growers, industry and consumers) in supplying seeds as a result of innovative, diverse technologies and production methods.