

# PESTICIDES REGULATION

Proposal COM(2022) 305 for a Regulation on the sustainable use of plant protection products

## WHAT'S IN IT?

OBJECTIVE

**Climate ambition**

in view of respecting the limit of 1.5°C global warming under the Paris Agreement

**100% renewables**

accelerating the phase-out of fossils and nuclear

**Fair participation**

of citizens in the benefits of the European Green Deal

GOOD PROSPECTS  
IN VIEW OF  
THE OBJECTIVE

MIXED  
PROSPECTS

A STEP BACKWARDS,  
UNDERMINING  
THE OBJECTIVE



## WHAT'S NEXT?

STATUS

**N/A,  
withdrawn**



MILESTONES



No milestones  
Withdrawn

Every two years the European Commission would have to provide an analysis of overall progress made

## WHAT TO WATCH OUT FOR?

RISKS

**Speed.** Slowing down the EU law's progress or implementation.

LIMITED RISK

MEDIUM RISK

HIGH RISK



**Money.** Conflict on distributional effects or lack of finance for making this EU law impactful.



**Fossil fuels.** Open door to supporting the use of fossil fuels.



**Nuclear power.** Open door to supporting the use of nuclear power.



NO RISK



N/A NOT APPLICABLE



Learn more

[eu.boell.org/green-deal-risk-radar](http://eu.boell.org/green-deal-risk-radar)

## WHAT'S IN IT?

 **Climate ambition**

The Regulation set a target to reduce the use of chemical plant protection products by 50% by 2030 (as compared to 2015–2017 levels). Widespread pesticide use is a major source of pollution – contaminating water, soil and air, thereby strongly impacting human health, and driving biodiversity loss. Furthermore, pesticide production is highly energy intensive, while pesticide use increases nitrous oxide production in soils. Phasing out pesticide use is thus a crucial element to achieve climate neutrality.

 **100% renewables**

Not directly relevant for the increase of renewable energy capacities.

 **Fair participation**

Supports efforts to educate, raise awareness and train farmers and professionals.

## WHAT'S NEXT?



STATUS

**Withdrawn by the European Commission in March 2024**

**Transposition by EU Member States**

Member States would have to develop national action plans and annual progress and implementation reports.

**Revision clauses and reporting duties**

Every two years the European Commission would have to provide an analysis of overall progress made.

**Delegated acts and other related legislative action**

N/A

## WHAT TO WATCH OUT FOR? RISKS

 **Speed**    **Money**    **Fossil fuels**    **Nuclear power**

The withdrawal of the proposed Pesticides Regulation marks both a victory for the agro-industrial lobby and a setback for the implementation of the European Commission's Farm To Fork Strategy. In light of the upcoming debate on the future EU budget and its Common Agriculture Policy (CAP), there are clear risks for further attacks on greening European agriculture.

**'I will present a Vision for Agriculture and Food in the first 100 days looking at how to ensure the long-term competitiveness and sustainability of our farming sector within the boundaries of our planet.'** – URSULA VON DER LEYEN, POLITICAL GUIDELINES FOR THE NEXT EUROPEAN COMMISSION 2024–2029, 18 JULY 2024

**'A substantial part of the Green Deal projects would have to be cancelled if the EU wants a functioning agricultural sector.'** – IVAN DAVID, MEP EUROPE OF SOVEREIGN NATIONS, POLITICO, 3 JULY 2024

## HOW TO IMPROVE IT? OPPORTUNITIES

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen's political guidelines of July 2024 promise a new 'Vision for Agriculture and Food', which will include instruments to reward farmers working with nature, preserving our biodiversity and natural ecosystems, and helping to decarbonise our economy.

## FURTHER READING

- [Pesticide Action & Agroecology Network \(PAN\) North America: Pesticides and climate change: a vicious cycle](#)