

PESTICIDES REGULATION

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

As part of the European Green Deal's objective to protect biodiversity and achieve zero pollution, the Pesticides Regulation foresaw a gradual reduction of the use of pesticides by EU farmers. After protests from farmers and industry, the European Commission decided to abandon this legislative initiative in March 2025.

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withdrawn**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Withdrawn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.

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.

LIMITED RISK

MEDIUM RISK

HIGH RISK



NO RISK



NOT APPLICABLE



Learn more
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Withdrawn by the European Commission in March 2024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 promised a new 'Vision for Agriculture and Food'. This new Vision was published in February 2025 by the new Commissioner for Agriculture. It does not include any ambitious or binding objectives to reduce the use of pesticides as in the withdrawn proposal for a Pesticides Regulation. When it comes to the definition of the instruments that the Vision foresees to reward farmers working with nature, preserving our biodiversity and natural ecosystems, there is an opportunity to push for further ambition on pesticides reduction.

FURTHER READING

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