

Brussels, 26. 11. 2008
D(2008) 1622

Dear Dr. Lucas,

Your letter of 8 August 2008 addressed to my colleague Stavros Dimas, Member of the Commission for the Environment, has been passed to me as the authorisation of pesticides falls within my portfolio as Member of the European Commission responsible for Health. May I firstly express my regret for the delay that has occurred in replying to you.

In your letter you express concerns on the possible risks related to the use of aminopyralid, a herbicidal active substance.

A dossier to support the approval of aminopyralid under Directive 91/414/EEC¹ has been submitted in September 2004 to the United Kingdom. In line with the provisions of this Directive and pending a Commission decision, Member States can for a limited time period grant provisional authorisations for plant protection products containing aminopyralid, if a national risk assessment shows that the active substance can be used safely in plant protection products.

In August 2006, the United Kingdom as rapporteur Member State, provided a draft report on its assessment of the dossier submitted by the producer to all Member States, the Commission and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). EFSA started to organise a peer review on this report, which is currently ongoing. A Commission decision on the approval or non-approval of aminopyralid can only be taken after the scientific assessment by EFSA is completed.

On 24 July 2008, following detection of aminopyralid in manure, which derived from the misuse of the product, the United Kingdom suspended the use, but not the approval of the active substance, pending the outcome of further investigations.

The information which you have provided will be shared with the Member States within the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health for consideration in the approval procedure of the active substance.

Yours sincerely,



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¹ OJ L 230, 19.8.1991, p. 1.