

## **Inter-agencies collaboration: Pesticide active substances under EFSA and ECHA**

**Main author:** Flavio Marchetto (European Chemicals Agency (ECHA))

**Co-authors:** Stella Jones Dimitra Kardassi, Silvia Mazzega, Katalin Molnar Tunde, Chiara Perazzolo

### **INTRODUCTION**

One of the main goals of the European Union is to ensure the protection of human and animal health and the environment. This has led to legislation regulating many aspects and processes, and to the foundation of agencies designated to implement that legislation. Among these strictly regulated sectors is the chemicals sector, since humans, animals and the environment may be subject to daily exposure of potentially harmful substances. These chemicals are regulated based on their use. Therefore, the same chemical can fall within the scope of multiple pieces of legislation. The main challenge when multiple pieces of legislation is involved is that of achieving a consistent approach. This has recently been identified in the Chemical Strategy for Sustainability, included in the recent EU Green Deal, promoting the 'One substance – One Assessment' (OSOA) approach, an integrated framework to move towards a more consistent evaluation of chemicals across different regulatory processes.

### **METHODOLOGY**

Active substances in Plant Protection Products (PPPs) are a crystal clear example since they fall under both the PPP Authorisation Regulation (Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009) and the Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) Regulation (Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008). These two regulations describe the rules and processes for the approval of a pesticide active substance to be used in PPPs placed on the market in the EU and the criteria to classify a substance in a harmonised system (CLH) across EU Member States, respectively. The two regulatory frameworks are interlinked: according to the PPP Regulation, the documentation for the approval of a pesticide active substance shall include a proposal for classification in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008.

## RESULTS

The two processes have different scopes, timelines and outputs, but both have a common key area: the hazard assessment, namely the evaluation of intrinsic properties of the chemical (i.e. physico-chemical, toxicological and ecotoxicological properties). It is therefore pivotal that the starting information in both frameworks is coherent, valid and robust.

## DISCUSSION

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) are the two EU agencies appointed to evaluate pesticide active substances for approval in the EU and to manage the CLH framework, inter alia. These agencies have been co-ordinating their activities to improve the alignment between the two processes for several years. The similarities and differences of these processes, the actors involved, the timelines and the manner in which the processes are currently integrated are described, as is the current state of the collaboration between ECHA and EFSA.