Dear Colleagues,

For your info, please find below a flash from today’s mtng between SG and CropLife Europe. We touched on two topics – the export ban for chemicals not allowed on the EU market and the chemicals strategy as such.

Best regards,

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Flash: SG + CropLife Europe meeting on 27 March 2023

*Participants:*

CropLife Europe:
- Crop protection
- Biopesticides
- Biotechnologies
- Precision agri

SG:
- CropLife Europe pointed out that they met also ENV, GROW and TRADE as subjects of interest of CropLife Europe:
  - Crop protection
  - Biopesticides
  - Biotechnologies
  - Precision agri

Subject of discussion for this meeting was primarily the export ban on chemicals forbidden on the EU market (already discussed for ENV).

*Export ban*

CropLife Europe expressed concerns about the chemicals policy evolution, in particular in sectors that have already built their vertical legislation developed.

They called for legal certainty so that the industry can invest (10+ years horizon) and/or prevent their departure from the EU. Be aware that investment into research goes with investment into industrial sights as well.
But even with legal certainty, they are worried because of the need to invest into research.

**Positive towards:**
- Reinforcing PIC, requiring more information to provide to end users.
- Explore track and trace systems
- Putting more info on exporting and importing companies
- Clear ban for SOME chemicals as already done these days

**Negative:**
- Towards banning too many things - the business will just transfer to other countries, where the tracing is practically non-existing, pointing to India and China

**Other points mentioned in the discussion:**
- Issue of non-approved substances - what if the substance was never put on the EU market, but is developed here? This is just an outcome of a research?
- Not aware of a similar approach to ban of export of domestically banned hazardous substances.
- Programmes at local level happening - training, awareness raising, equipment... - trying to raise standards (also of production) at local level. They believe this makes the difference. Too stringent rules might actually make the world-wide situation worse. The market at EU leaves will always be taken very quickly by less diligent countries. Focus should be on ensuring a proper use, rather than banning.
- Issue of counterfeit.

SG encouraged to contribute to the development - also through OPC.

**Chemicals strategy**
- They believe that some of the chemicals legislation has been little bit rushed, not taking time to align the legislation - pointing in particular to endocrine disruptors.
- Question on the REACH delivery - pointed to Q4 2023.