

Follow-up to the European Parliament resolution of 25 November 2025 on ensuring the faster registration and uptake of biological control agents

- 1. Rapporteurs:** Alexander BERNHUBER (EPP / AT), Anna STROLENBERG (Greens/EFA / NL)
- 2. References:** 2025/2086(INI) / A10-0234/2025 / P10_TA(2025)284
- 3. Date of adoption of the resolution:** 25 November 2025
- 4. Competent Parliamentary Committee:** Committee on the Environment, Climate and Food Safety (ENVI), Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI)
- 5. Brief analysis/ assessment of the resolution and requests made in it:**

The resolution calls on the Commission to create a framework for the accelerated approval of biological control active substances at EU level and for the authorisation of biological control products at Member State level, to the benefit of European farmers, human health and the environment.

In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market and repealing Council Directives 79/117/EEC and 91/414/EEC, active substances must be approved at EU level before plant protection products containing them can be authorised by Member States. However, the approval process for biological control substances can be lengthy, affecting market availability. The Parliament calls on the Commission to ensure effective implementation of the current regulatory framework (**paragraph 28**) while proposing amendments to introduce a clear legal definition of biocontrol substances (**paragraph 1**), to establish a fast-track procedure for the assessment of biocontrol active substances and products while maintaining a rigorous scientific assessment (**paragraphs 14, 15**), to consider allowing provisional authorisations (**paragraph 16**), to promote mutual recognition among Member States (**paragraphs 7, 8, 9**), to facilitate the extension of authorisations to minor uses (**paragraphs 10, 11, 12, 13**), and to extend the maximum period for approval and renewal of biocontrol substances to 25 years (**paragraph 12**), as well as to reduce administrative burdens (**paragraph 1**). According to the Resolution, adapting risk assessments to reflect the unique profiles of biological control agents compared to conventional plant protection products (PPPs) would help to speed up and simplify their assessment, while maintaining protection for health, biodiversity, and the environment (**paragraphs 3, 4**).

The resolution calls on the Commission to adapt the current Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 to specifically cater for biocontrol active substances

and products and welcomes the forthcoming targeted review of that Regulation as part of the Simplification Package (**paragraphs 5, 6**). In the longer term, it calls on the Commission to look into the possibility of establishing a new stand-alone biocontrol regulation including the conditions upon which a centralised assessment may apply, to better tailor the assessment, approval and authorisation procedures for biocontrol substances and products (**paragraph 19**).

The resolution calls upon the Commission to regularly monitor market uptake, affordability and availability of biocontrol solutions (**paragraph 41**), as well as the EU's and Member States' progress in implementing the package of measures proposed (**paragraph 42**).

It also calls for allocation of resources to clear the backlog of delayed biological control applications and better technical support from the European Food and Safety Agency (EFSA) to applicants with the aim of improving the quality of applications (**paragraphs 20, 21, 29, 30, 32**), and for particular attention to the needs of the outermost regions and support for all actors in this regard (**paragraph, 43**).

6. Response to requests and overview of actions taken, or intended to be taken, by the Commission:

The actions called for in the own initiative report (INI) are overall well aligned with the proposed targeted amendments of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 regarding biocontrol substances and products, that have been made in the Food and Feed Safety Simplification Package.

The Commission has proposed a definition for biocontrol substances (**paragraph 1**) that acknowledge their specificities in order to facilitate faster market access for biocontrol substances and products containing them.

The Food and Feed Safety Simplification Package has proposed several targeted amendments to Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 to accelerate market access for biocontrol substances and products containing them. It will maintain the existing high standards for health and environmental protection while promoting regulatory efficiency and reducing administrative burden for industry and competent authorities in charge of the assessment of the applications for approval and authorisation (**paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 5, 6**).

The Commission has proposed measures to improve and enhance mutual recognition and hence more equal access to biocontrol products across all Member States by considering all Member States as one zone and deeming authorisations granted if decisions on applications for mutual recognition are not taken within regulatory deadlines (**paragraphs 7, 9**).

To address concerns about better protection of minor use crops (**paragraphs 11, 12, 13**), the Commission has proposed simplifications in authorisation procedures, including broadening the scope of access to the mutual recognition processes to actors other than companies and

lightening administrative burdens for submitting applications. The Commission has also proposed that approvals for biocontrol active substances will be unlimited in time (**paragraph 12**).

To enhance capacity for approving new biocontrol substances and authorising biocontrol products, the Commission has proposed that Member States must prioritise the assessment of biocontrol substances and products containing them to reduce delays, aiming for completing assessment faster than within 12 months. In addition, applicants can choose EFSA as rapporteur for biocontrol active substances, instead of a Member State. This will save resources in Member States while additional resources are proposed to be allocated to EFSA to handle these new tasks effectively (**paragraphs 29, 30, 32**).

Furthermore, the Commission has proposed that Member States can grant provisional authorisations for biocontrol products based on a favourable assessment report from the rapporteur Member State (before the full approval process is finalised by EFSA), which can be transformed into regular authorisations after finalisation of the full approval process, thus streamlining administrative procedures and ensuring swift access of farmers to new products while maintaining high safety standards (**paragraph 16**).

Regarding a longer-term legislative perspective and the proposal stated in the Parliament's initiative report to have a stand-alone regulation for biocontrol (**paragraphs 17, 18, 19**), the Commission believes that the proposed targeted amendments, when fully implemented, will lead to faster approvals/authorisations of biocontrol solutions, while ensuring a high level of safety for human health and the environment and that any reflection on establishing a new and separate legal framework should await an evaluation of the performance of the measures proposed after their full implementation.

In line with the Parliament's calls for urgently updating guidance documents specific to biological control products to promote their uptake and enhance consistency across the Member States (**paragraph 23**), the Commission will continue its work to regularly update guidance documents, in particular in relation to risk assessment of biocontrol products, to support applicants.

The Commission points out that outermost regions (**paragraph 43**) will benefit from all provisions in the simplification package aiming at a quicker uptake of biocontrol solutions and increasing efficiency and speed of evaluations to provide farmers faster with sufficient tools to fight pests. As regards serious dangers to plant health that may be specific to the outermost regions, it is proposed to broaden the scope of the derogation of approval conditions when no reasonable alternatives exist (Article 4(7) to Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009). Moreover, it will be possible to obtain faster the authorisations for necessary products due to the proposed changes for the mutual recognition procedure (Articles 40 and 42) and due to the amended provisions on minor uses, as crops grown in the outermost regions are often minor uses for Member States (Article 51).

The Commission notes the calls to monitor the market uptake, availability and affordability, as well as the progress made in the efficiency of the assessment procedures for biocontrol substances and products (**paragraphs 41, 42**) and will use the available information and databases for this purpose.

Furthermore, the Commission shares the Parliament's view on supporting sustainable plant protection practices and reiterates its commitment to fostering the shift toward biological control solutions. Biological control approaches have high potential to reduce dependency on chemical pesticides, offering targeted, low-risk action suitable for integrated pest management. In that context, Commission is committed to work with Member States towards more effective implementation of Integrated Pest Management as required under the Sustainable Use Directive¹ (**paragraphs 25, 28**).

Long-term monitoring on pollinators (**paragraph 37**) will be established under Regulation (EU) 2024/1991 on Nature Restoration. The Member States are required to start the pollinator monitoring 12 months after the entry into force of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2025/2188 on 16 December 2025, which sets out the method for pollinator monitoring. These data can be compared to trends in the multiple factors contributing to stress on pollinators such as weather data, land use change, pesticides and fertiliser uses.

Horizon Europe facilitates effective knowledge exchange by delivering practical and innovative solutions directly to advisors and farmers (**paragraph 37**). An example is the project RENOVATE², which provides training and fosters networking opportunities for farmers in sustainable crop management.

Regarding Research and investment (**paragraph 33**), the Commission supports plant health and crop protection research, innovation and knowledge exchange through Horizon Europe³. Over EUR 160 million has been allocated to actions in this field under its Cluster 6⁴, *Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment*, during the period 2021-2025 to explore non-chemical alternatives like biological control, develop integrated approaches and a broad array of solutions for the prevention, early detection, monitoring, control, and

¹ Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides

² <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101134024>

³ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en

⁴ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/cluster-6-food-bioeconomy-natural-resources-agriculture-and-environment_en

management of pests and diseases. In addition, a strong emphasis is placed in share valuable insights with farmers and advisors^{5 6}.

Additionally, the EU co-funds an agroecology partnership⁷ with a European Partnership under Horizon Europe with Member States and Associated Countries (**paragraph 33**). The overall aim of the partnership is to enhance the knowledge base and deliver solutions and tools that will underpin the agroecology transition in Europe with a total planned budget of EUR 300 million, including an EU contribution of EUR 150 million.

On cooperation between all actors (**paragraph 39**), the Horizon 2020⁸ project IPMWorks⁹ has established a European network of farmers and advisers to showcase, based on peer-to-peer learning and demonstrations, cost-effective holistic integrated pest management strategies, including biological control solutions.

Finally, advisory Networks (**paragraph 40**) are supported under Horizon Europe, connecting advisors across the EU, ensuring they stay updated with the latest developments¹⁰. These networks enhance exchanges between farm advisors, accelerating knowledge creation, sharing, capacity building, and demonstrating innovative solutions. The project AdvisoryNetPEST¹¹ focuses on developing and enhancing an EU-wide advisory network, facilitating knowledge sharing among advisors and the entire **Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS)**, promoting the adoption of innovative solutions to reduce pesticide use by farmers.

⁵https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/overview-vision-agriculture-food/research-innovation/cropping-systems_en

⁶Summary factsheets on EU funded integrated pest management projects: <https://op.europa.eu/s/z4Pa>

⁷<https://www.agroecologypartnership.eu/en>

⁸https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-2020_en

⁹ <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101000339>

¹⁰https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/overview-vision-agriculture-food/research-innovation/knowledge-flows-and-skills_en

¹¹ <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101134122>