



The Amenity Forum Response to outcome of European Parliament vote on pesticide regulation

The Amenity Forum are writing to inform you of the outcomes of the November 2023 vote by Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) regarding a proposed regulation on pesticides, which could have had a significant impact on the amenity sector in both Europe and the UK.

Overview of the November 2023 MEP Vote:

In November 2023, MEPs voted to reject a proposed Sustainable Use of Plant Protection Products Regulation. This regulation aimed to replace the current Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive, which has been in effect since 2009. The goal was to create a unified approach across EU member states, reducing variation in implementation and enforcement, and minimising risks to human health and the environment.

Implications for the Amenity Sector:

The proposed regulation raised concerns within the amenity industry, as it would have halted the use of all plant protection products in sensitive areas. Sensitive areas include spaces utilised by the general public, vulnerable groups, human settlements, urban areas near water features, and non-productive areas—essentially encompassing much of the land managed by our sector.

MEP Vote Results:

The proposal faced opposition from various stakeholders due to its potential impact on both agriculture and amenity management. Ultimately, the MEPs rejected the proposal, with 48% against, 33% in support, and 19% abstaining.

UK's Current Pesticide Regulations:

While the UK has left the EU, the Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012 remains a key law governing pesticide use in the UK. The rejection of the proposed regulation does not alter the current regulatory framework in the UK. However, the interconnected nature of our markets means that changes in EU regulations can still influence the availability and approval of plant protection products in the UK.

Looking Ahead:

As of now, there is no immediate plan to reintroduce the Sustainable Use Regulation in the EU. However, the EU's biodiversity and pesticide reduction targets persist, and future proposals may arise. It is essential for us to stay vigilant and engaged in discussions to ensure that any potential future UK regulations align with our industry's commitment to responsible and sustainable amenity management.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or require additional information on this matter – admin@amenityforum.net

Thank you for your continued dedication to promoting best practices in our industry.