

BeeLife's Recommendations for REFIT Consultation

With little time left to fill the questionnaire, BeeLife publishes its recommendations for the ongoing [Public Consultation on the "REFIT evaluation of the EU legislation on plant protection products and pesticide residues"](#). Both EU and non-EU citizens are welcome to complete the survey. For those who haven't done so already, they must haste to make their voice heard. The consultation is open until Monday, February 12.

***9. The protection of human health is a key aspect when carrying out the risk assessment for pesticides at EU level. Human health refers not only to consumers, but also to the safety of operators (users of pesticides), bystanders and residents. In your opinion, is human health protected from the use of pesticides in the EU?**

- Not at all
- Insufficiently
- Somewhat
- Sufficiently
- Fully protected
- Don't know

*** 10. When carrying out the risk assessment for pesticides at EU level, animal welfare is taken into account in particular in terms of limiting animal testing. In your opinion, is the impact from pesticides on animal welfare minimised in the EU?**

- Not at all
- Insufficiently
- Somewhat
- Sufficiently
- Fully minimised
- Don't know

*** 11. When carrying out the risk assessment for pesticides at EU level, environmental aspects are taken into account. Only pesticides that have no unacceptable risks to the environment, including wildlife such as birds, bees, and mammals, can be approved in the EU. In your opinion, does the way pesticides are applied and used minimise the impact on the environment in the EU?**

- Not at all
- Insufficiently
- Somewhat
- Sufficiently
- Completely
- Don't know

*** 12. How do you think has the use of pesticides developed over the last 10 years in your country?**

- The use of pesticides has decreased
- The use of pesticides has increased
- The use of pesticides has remained more or less the same
- Don't know

*** 13. The availability of tools to protect crops (i.e. pesticides and alternative methods) may impact the competitiveness of farmers. If you consider the availability of such tools in the EU compared to that in countries outside the EU, what do you think of the competitiveness of EU farmers?**

- EU farmers are less competitive than farmers outside the EU
- EU farmers are more competitive than farmers outside the EU
- There is no difference in the competitiveness between farmers inside or outside the EU
- Don't know

14. In your opinion, to what extent are EU farmers able to:

	Not at all	Very little	Somewhat	Significantly	Very much	Don't know
* Protect their crops from pests with pesticides?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Protect their crops from pests with alternative methods?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* Protect their own health when using pesticides?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Afford pesticides?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Below we would like to ask you questions related to pesticide residues that may be present in or on food or feed

* 15. Are you aware that pesticide residues are set at levels that are harmonised across the EU?

- No, I was not aware
- Yes, I am aware that pesticide residues are regulated in the EU
- Yes, I am aware that pesticide residues are regulated in the EU and know the rules in general
- Yes, I am aware and familiar with Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 on maximum residue levels of pesticides

* 16. In general, do you think that the maximum residue levels set in the EU are:

- Too low (i.e. the European Union is too strict)
- Too high (i.e. the European Union is not strict enough)
- Just about right
- Don't know

* 17. Ten years ago, maximum residue levels of pesticides were set at national level, while now they are harmonised across the EU. Do you think that this has facilitated the free movement of food and feed in the EU?

- Not at all
- Very little
- Somewhat
- Significantly
- Very much
- Don't know

***18. What is the effect of setting maximum residue levels in the EU on the competitiveness of the EU food sector as compared to the food sector outside the EU?**

- The food sector in the EU is less competitive than the food sector outside the EU
- The food sector in the EU is more competitive than the food sector outside the EU
- There is no difference in the competitiveness between the food sectors inside or outside the EU
- Don't know

19. Setting maximum residue levels for food and feed in the EU may have impacts on trade with countries outside the EU, since all imported food and feed products also need to comply with these levels. In your opinion, what has been the overall impact of setting maximum residue levels in the EU on international trade?

	Mainly positive impacts on international trade	No overall impact on international trade	Mainly negative impacts on international trade	Don't know
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* For the EU	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* For countries outside the EU	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Below we would like to ask you a few questions on the decision-making in the EU related to pesticides and their residues

20. Do you feel well-informed about the decisions made in the EU with regard to pesticides and their residue levels?

	Not at all	Insufficiently	Somewhat sufficiently	Very well	Don't know
* Pesticides	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Pesticide residues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* 21. Public information regarding risk assessment, decision-making, and monitoring is available for pesticides and pesticide residues in the EU. For example, information is available on the European Commission website, in the EU pesticide database, on the European Food Safety Authority website, and in the Official Journal of the EU. Are you aware of these and other tools to access information on pesticides and their residues in the EU?

- No, I was not aware
- Yes, I am aware, but I have not looked for this information yet
- Yes, I am aware, but I cannot easily find the information
- Yes, I am aware and can easily find the information

***22. Legislation on pesticides and pesticide residues are part of a broader EU strategy related to general food law. In your opinion, do you think that the EU is overall consistent with the decisions made on pesticides and their residues compared to other decisions related to food (e.g. additives, contaminants and nutrition)?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

23. In your opinion, at what level of governance do you think that pesticides and pesticide residues should be regulated? (several answers per option are possible)

	National level	EU level	International level	Don't know
* Pesticides	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

* Pesticide residues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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*Some questions are irrelevant. For instance, question #12 contrasting safety vs competitiveness and the impact on trade, thus setting an inadequate picture of reality, particularly considering that farmers in Europe have all the means to be competitive. Farmers have education, machinery, subsidies, etc. and consumers eager to consume healthier foods. Besides, countries exporting to Europe know that highly contaminated products need to be exported elsewhere in the world because in Europe we prefer "clean" food.