

Environmental Impacts of Plant Protection Products (PPP) – Expert Meeting
19 December 2017
The Brandenburg Academy, Berlin

The objective of the meeting was two-fold: To 1) examine the 'options for improvement' to the EU PPP approval and authorisation system that are proposed by SAPEA in their draft Evidence Review Report (ERR); specifically to consider if the options in the draft report, which focus on human health, might be detrimental for the environment, and 2) To identify any other observations, in the context of the Scoping Paper for the Scientific Opinion and SAPEA's draft Evidence Review Report, which might enhance the protection of the environment.

The discussion of the options for improvement presented in the ERR draft report, concluded that none were considered as potentially reducing levels of environmental protection. However, it was highlighted that, as most PPPs are designed to reduce weeds and invertebrate pest species, products safe for humans may be harmful to non-target organisms in the environment. Some clarifications of wording in the draft ERR were suggested and agreed with the chair of the ERR Working Group during the meeting and were subsequently incorporated into SAPEA's ERR.

Discussion of additional suggestions on the environmental impacts of PPPs not mentioned in the ERR, led to a wide ranging discussion of possible improvements to the authorisation process which might enhance the protection of the environment. This discussion included considerations of: operational protection goals and indicators; collaboration with other legislative areas; addressing ecosystem services in modelling, monitoring and landscape-scale assessments; how to fund assessments and monitoring; strategies for replacement of substances of concern; compliance checking and enforcement; and the pros and cons of the EU's hazard cut-off criteria approach. The HLG will consider all of the points raised as part of their deliberations on the Scientific Opinion.

Notes by SAM Secretariat, January 2018