



The Commission report on use and options for invertebrate biocontrol agents in the EU – an update

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The request from Council

- Initiative taken by the Portuguese Council Presidency, I/2021
- Subject: Invertebrate biological control agents (IBCA) used to protect plants, including sterile insect technique (SIT)
- Scope: Introduction, evaluation, production, marketing and use
- Request: Describe the situation and identify options for improving it
- Focus on options related to harmonisation (of criteria, procedures and decision-making)
- At the same time, the safety of humans, animals, plants, the environment and food security must be ensured
- Request under Art. 241 TFEU from Council to the Commission to submit a study; deadline: 31 December 2022
- Legal act: Council Decision (EU) 2021/1102 of 28 June 2021



European
Commission

The data collection

- The Commission was supported by an external consultant in collecting the necessary data
- A thorough stakeholder consultation was carried out

TYPE OF STAKEHOLDERS	SURVEYS	INTERVIEWS
27 Member State National Competent Authorities, e.g. contact points identified within each national authority in charge of IBCA in their respective country.	√ Additional and complementary questions were asked in the form of interviews and emails	Interviews were led with Belgium (Brussels region), Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden
Intergovernmental organisations: IPPC / EPPO, IAEA-FAO, CABI	√ EPPO	√ EPPO, IAEA-FAO, CABI Europe
Industry associations: IBMA, Crop Life Europe	√ IBMA	√ IBMA
Farmers', forestry and home gardener's associations: COPA COGECA, IFOAM, and EUSTAFOR	All stakeholders opted for interviews	√ COPA-COGECA, EUSTAFOR
Civil Society Organisations: EEB, IUCN and PAN		√ PAN Europe
Scientific organisations: EFSA, IOBC-WPRS	√ IOBC-WPRS	√ EFSA
National competent authorities from New Zealand and the USA	√ New Zealand, the USA	√ New Zealand, the USA

The regulatory situation

- Information was provided by all Member States
- Considerable divergence across EU
- Two layers of national legislation: specific legislation on IBCAs (in 14 Member States) and general legislation (on protection of the environment)
- Even Member States which are content with their current system see some room for improvement

The market situation


- Aggregated market data were provided by IBMA
- It was possible to give a description of the overall market of IBCAs
- Only little information is available on the national markets, neither through industry nor through Member States
- More (and more detailed) market data would be crucial for a thorough and robust analysis

The use situation

- IBCAs use well developed in organic farming and high value crops, in particular in greenhouses
- Some success stories were identified
- Problem children:
 - Herbicidal use (EU specificity?)
 - Arable crops
- Involvement of private sector in classical biocontrol lower than in other parts of the world
- Important to switch to systemic approaches in plant protection

The next steps

- Commission report under finalisation
- Submission to the European Parliament and Council foreseen by 31 December 2022
- The Commission study will be published together with the final report from the contractor and other background material soon after transmission
- Possibly on the agenda of the Swedish Council Presidency (I/2023)
- A decision on appropriate follow-up is to be taken



Louis, I think this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship.