



European Food Forum
Event

“The Revision of the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive: challenges and opportunities”

7 February 2023
(08h45-10h45 CET)
European Parliament
Spinelli 3E2

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Moderator: Natasha FOOTE Agrifood reporter at EURACTIV

Event hosted by MEPs:

- **Clara AGUILERA**
- **Franz BOGOVIC**
- **Alessandra MORETTI**
- **Christine SCHNEIDER**
- **Michaela ŠOJDROVÁ**
- **Irene TOLLERET**

S&D **renew europe.** **epp**

Event description:

In June last year the European Commission published its proposal to revise the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive which will enshrine into law the flagship 50% reduction targets on pesticides from the Farm to Fork Strategy. The Parliament and Council are now grappling with the serious question over how exactly to make farming more sustainable and what these reduction targets mean for European farmers. This event will delve into this challenging debate to find out where institutional, industry and civil society stakeholders stand on the proposal: do they think that it's manageable? Do we have enough data on the realities on the ground? What effective alternatives to chemical pesticides are out there for farmers to use? What are the tradeoffs when imposing reduction targets? Is this the right time for such an ambitious proposal when farmers are grappling with the current food security and energy crises?

How will the review of the the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive complement the EC proposal for a regulation on nature restoration that sets multiple binding restoration targets and obligations across a broad range of ecosystems, from forests and agricultural land to urban areas, rivers and marine habitats?

In the true open and forward-looking spirit of the EFF events and with the intention of promoting a pragmatic take on the upcoming debate, the EFF is looking forward for this fruitful discussion with an exciting panel of speakers.



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Hosting MEPs:

Ms. Clara AGUILERA
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Ms. Irene TOLLERET

Moderator: Natasha Foote Journalist Euractiv

PROGRAMME

- 8:45 - 8:55 Opening remarks EFF MEPs
Franc Bogovic, Alessandra Moretti, Irene Tolleret
- 8:55 – 09:15 **Outstanding challenges and opportunities on the revision of the Directive**
- MEP Clara AGUILERA**
Rapporteur Revision of the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive AGRI
- MEP Christine SCHNEIDER**
Shadow Rapporteur Nature restoration law ENVI
- Heinz-Joachim HÖFER**
Rapporteur Revision of the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive
NAT Commission - Committee of the Regions
- 09:15– 09:35 **Panel 1 - Case studies: challenges and opportunities**
- Betty Annan** - Country Director Ghana of the World Cocoa Foundation
Alexander Flick, Owner Weingut Alexander Flick
- 09:35– 10:20 **Panel 2 - challenges and opportunities from the stakeholders’ point of view**
- **Eduardo Cuoco** - Director – IFOAM Organics Europe
 - **Olivier de Matos** - Director General – CropLife Europe
 - **Jennifer Lewis** – Executive Director IBMA-Global
 - **Eva Corral** – Senior Policy Officer on Pesticide and Water Pollution European Environmental Bureau
- 10:20– 10:40 **Claire Bury** – Deputy Director General for Food Sustainability DG Sante EU Commission
- 10 :40 – 10 :45 Conclusions
Michaela ŠOJDROVÁ, Franc Bogovic



Speakers BIO

Heijo Höfer studied law at the Universities of Mannheim and Heidelberg. Then followed the legal traineeship and the second state examination. During this time, he worked in parallel as a freelancer in a law firm for three years.

His career began in 1983 in the Ministry of Interior of the Federal State of Rhineland-Palatinate as well as as a lecturer at the University of Applied Sciences for Public Administration in Mayen.

From 1992 to 2016, Höfer held the office of elected full-time mayor of the "Verbandsgemeinde" Altenkirchen/Westerwald before becoming a member of the Landtag of Rhineland-Palatinate in December 2016. He held this mandate until May 2021.

From 1992 to 2019 Heijo Höfer was also a volunteer city mayor of the district town of Altenkirchen/Westerwald. Currently, he is a member of the city council. In this role, he has been representing the German Association of Cities and Municipalities at the European Committee of the Regions of Europe (CoR) in Brussels since 2009. He is a member of the Natural Resources Commission (NAT) from 2009-2015 and from 2020-today.

From 2015-2020 he was a member of the Commission for Social Policy, Education, Employment, Research and Culture (SEDEC), where in 2016 he was the CoR rapporteur the opinion on the European Pillar of Social Rights.

Betty Annan - Betty Annan is the Country Director for Ghana. She plays a key role in country strategy formulation, government engagement and policy dialogue, and collaboration with WCF member companies and other stakeholders on the ground in Ghana. Betty has worked for the past 10 years on agriculture and rural development in West Africa, including as the Ghana Country Manager for Fairtrade Africa, Ghana Country Manager for Agribusiness Systems International, and Project Coordinator and Social Development Advisor for Care International on their West African Fair Fruits Project. She brings strong understanding of agricultural value chains and agribusiness development, technical knowledge of environmental and social dimensions of natural resource management, good policy analysis and research experience, excellent client engagement skills, and a broad understanding of and network of contacts in the cocoa sector. Betty holds a PhD in Environmental Science from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University in the US; a MSc in Natural Resources from University of Greenwich in UK; and a BSc in Agriculture from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Ghana.

Alexander Flick - Alexander Flick (38) is the owner of a family-owned winery. The winery cultivates 24 hectares of vineyards in 3 sub-regions of the wine-growing region of Rheinhessen and produces 170.000 bottles of wine p.a. He Studied in Oenolgy, Viticulture and Business Administration at Geisenheim University of Applied Sciences, Graduation 2008 as Engineer for Viticulture and Oenology Alexander Flick has always fascinated the interaction between man and nature, so that today he devotes himself enthusiastically to viticulture. In addition to his viticulture studies, he gained experience at wineries in the Rheingau and New Zealand. Since 2008, he has been working as a winemaker in Bechtolsheim, Rheinhessen. There he maintains the family tradition and realizes his idea of the ideal wine. Alexander Flick inspire values such as down-to-earthness and passion, determination and patience. He enjoys the opportunity to devote himself fully to his heart thing.

Eduardo Cuoco - Eduardo Cuoco was born in Naples (Italy) where he studied and successfully completed his MSc in Food Science and Technologies. He has been involved in organic farming since 1998 and collaborated with many organic organizations such as the Italian Association for Organic Farming AIAB, the Institute for Environmental and Ethical Certification ICEA, and BIOCERT. During the first career phase, from 1998 to 2008, he focused on the regional and national development of the organic policies in Italy, regarding rural development plans and promotional schemes. Furthermore he also promoted the organic industry in Italy as an innovation broker. From 2008 on, Eduardo has been involved in the establishment and management of the European Technology Platform "TP Organics". Besides his work for TP ORganics, he is currently participating in different expert groups such as the Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation Systems AKIS-SCAR and the Euro-Mediterranean Expert Group EMEG. Additionally he is contributing to and serving the European organic sector with his position as Innovation & Research Manager, as well as interim deputy director of the IFOAM EU Group.

Olivier de Matos - Olivier de Matos is the new Director General of Croplife Europe. Olivier comes to Croplife Europe from ECETOC, the European Centre for Ecotoxicology and Toxicology of Chemicals, where he spent 4 years as Secretary General leading the association and promoting its scientific programme activities and initiatives. Before that he held various leadership positions at Burson-Marsteller (now BCW) where he worked for more than 15 years.

Jennifer Lewis - Jennifer Lewis was appointed as IBMA Executive Director in 2019. Jennifer represents IBMA on FAO and OECD and works with members and other stakeholders to advance biocontrol and the implementation of IPM worldwide. Prior to IBMA, Jennifer was a member of the Certis Europe Management Board leading Innovation, Development and Regulatory Affairs for 10 years. Before this she was General Manager of Biological Crop Protection Ltd, a beneficial insect production company selling beneficial insects for pest control in UK, Europe and Africa. Jennifer has worked in crop protection for 35 years in various marketing, regulatory and stewardship roles in the US, Brazil and Europe. Jennifer has always been passionate about IPM and biocontrol and its essential role for sustainable regenerative agriculture. Jennifer is an agronomy graduate with a Masters in Business Administration and a Diploma in Sustainable Business Development. Her broad background allows her to bring a blend of international business experience, biocontrol knowledge and regulatory know how as well as a shared passion for biocontrol, to our industry.



Eva Corral - Eva Corral is Senior Policy Officer for Pesticide and Water pollution at the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) Eva works for a healthy environment in which, by reducing dependency on the use of synthetic pesticides, humans and nature can prosper together. Her previous work experience includes working in war and conflict zones in Africa and Asia, writing and co-writing several studies on agriculture, biodiversity and rural development, and working, at EU level, on different agricultural topics. Eva is an agriculture engineer (Polytechnic University of Madrid), holds a Master's of Science in Food Production and Marketing by the Imperial College London (Wye College) and has a degree as environmental advisor (Institut Eco-Conseil of Namur).

Claire Bury - Claire Bury is currently Deputy Director-General in DG Health and Food Safety with responsibility for food safety and sustainability. She was previously Deputy Director-General for the Digital Single Market in DG Communications Networks, Content and Technology and Director of Modernisation of the Single Market in Directorate General Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs. From 2016-2022 she was visiting Professor for the Digital Single Market at the College of Europe in Bruges. She has also been Head of Unit for Company Law, Corporate Governance and Financial Crime in Directorate General Internal Market and Services, and Deputy Head of Cabinet to Internal Market Commissioners Charlie McCreevy and Frits Bolkestein. A barrister by training, she worked in the Commission's Legal Service and, before coming to Brussels, in private practice and the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office.