



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Safety of the Food Chain

NOTE TO THE FILE

Subject: Meeting Commissioner Andriukaitis – Management Board Europabio
Basis (SANTE/1364)

Date/Place: 4 September 2019, Cabinet Commissioner Andriukaitis

Participants:

- DG SANTE: Commissioner Andriukaitis, Nathalie Chaze, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED]
- Europabio/Croplife:
[REDACTED] (Leading the delegation, Bayer AG), [REDACTED]
(Corteva), [REDACTED] (FMC), [REDACTED] (Syngenta), [REDACTED] (BASF)
(Sumitomo),
EuropaBio: [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Report:

Main purpose was to discuss ways to implement innovation in the EU farming practices, with a science-based decision making approach.

- SANTE explained the current EU political context under which science-based approach is challenged by lack of trust in private innovation, being for plant protection products or for GM plants.
- SANTE called upon Europabio to shift from pesticides-centric practices to more sustainable practices where innovation, Integrated Pest Management, low-risk and bio-pesticides to meet EU people's expectation for safer food, biodiversity conservation and fair trade practices.
- Europabio committed to elaborate key performance indicators demonstrating the benefits of their innovative tools compared to current practices, and to exchange data to help build up reliable indicators to survey trends as regards sustainability of farming practices. In this context, they also underlined that products from NBTs offer particular advantages and will submit specific data in this regard.
- Europabio shall develop fair communication messages towards large public about this systemic approach to farm, including digital tools, gene editing, preventive pest control practices, bio-pesticides, etc.
- SANTE invited participants to contribute constructively to the exchanges of views due to take place in the context of the Green Deal announced by Ms President-elect within the first 100 days of her mandate.