

COMMISSION DECISION

of 20 December 2000

concerning the non-inclusion of lindane in Annex I to Council Directive 91/414/EEC and the withdrawal of authorisations for plant-protection products containing this active substance

(notified under document number C(2000) 4014)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2000/801/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Directive 91/414/EEC of 15 July 1991 concerning the placing of plant-protection products on the market ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Commission Directive 2000/80/EC ⁽²⁾, and in particular the fourth subparagraph of Article 8(2) thereof,

Having regard to Commission Regulation (EEC) No 3600/92 of 11 December 1992 laying down the detailed rules for the implementation of the first stage of the programme of work referred to in Articles 8(2) of Council Directive 91/414/EEC concerning the placing of plant-protection products on the market ⁽³⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2266/2000 ⁽⁴⁾, and in particular Article 7(3a)(b) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Article 8(2) of Directive 91/414/EEC provided for the Commission to carry out a programme of work for the examination of the active substances used in plant-protection products which were already on the market on 15 July 1993. Detailed rules for the carrying out of this programme were established in Regulation (EC) No 3600/92.
- (2) Commission Regulation (EC) No 933/94 of 27 April 1994 laying down the active substances of plant-protection products and designating the rapporteur Member States for the implementation of Regulation (EEC) No 3600/92 ⁽⁵⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2230/95 ⁽⁶⁾, has designated the active substances which should be assessed in the framework of Regulation (EEC) No 3600/92, designated a Member State to act as rapporteur in respect of the assessment of each substance and identified the producers of each active substance who submitted a notification in due time in accordance with Article 4(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 3600/92.
- (3) Lindane is one of the 90 active substances designated in Regulation (EC) No 933/94.
- (4) In accordance with Article 7(1)(c) of Regulation (EEC) No 3600/92, Austria, being the designated rapporteur Member State, submitted on 17 December 1998 to the

Commission the report of its assessment of the information submitted by the notifiers in accordance with the provisions of Article 6(1) of this Regulation.

- (5) On receipt of the report of the rapporteur Member State, the Commission undertook consultations with experts of the Member States as well as with the main notifier (CIEL) as provided for in Article 7(3) of Regulation (EEC) No 3600/92.
- (6) The assessment report prepared by Austria has been reviewed by the Member States and the Commission within the Standing Committee on Plant Health. This review was finalised on 13 July 2000 in the format of the Commission review report for lindane, in accordance with Article 7(6) of Regulation (EEC) No 3600/92.
- (7) Assessments made on the basis of the information submitted have not demonstrated that it may be expected that, under the proposed conditions of use, plant-protection products containing lindane satisfy in general the requirements laid down in Article 5(1)(a) and (b) of Directive 91/414/EEC, in particular with regard to the safety of operators potentially exposed to lindane and with regard to the fate and behaviour of the substance in the environment and its possible impact on non-target organisms.
- (8) Therefore it is not possible to include this active substance in Annex I to Directive 91/414/EEC.
- (9) Any period of grace for disposal, storage, placing on the market and use of existing stocks of plant-protection products containing lindane allowed by Member States, in accordance with the provisions of Article 4(6) of Directive 91/414/EEC should be limited to a period of no longer than 18 months to allow existing stocks to be used in no more than one further growing season.
- (10) This Decision does not prejudice any action the Commission may undertake at a later stage for this active substance within the framework of Council Directive 79/117/EEC ⁽⁷⁾.
- (11) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Committee on Plant Health,

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 230, 19.8.1991, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 309, 9.12.2000, p. 14.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 366, 15.12.1992, p. 10.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 259, 13.10.2000, p. 27.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 107, 28.4.1994, p. 8.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 225, 22.9.1995, p. 1.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ L 33, 8.2.1979, p. 36.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Lindane is not included as an active substance in Annex I to Directive 91/414/EEC.

Article 2

The Member States shall ensure that:

1. authorisations for plant-protection products containing lindane are withdrawn within a period of six months from the date of adoption of the present Decision;
2. from the date of adoption of the present Decision no authorisation for plant-protection products containing lindane will be granted or renewed under the derogation provided for in Article 8(2) of Directive 91/414/EEC.

Article 3

Any period of grace granted by Member States in accordance with the provisions of Article 4(6) of Directive 91/414/EEC, shall be as short as possible and not longer than 18 months from the date of adoption of the present Decision.

Article 4

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 20 December 2000.

For the Commission

David BYRNE

Member of the Commission
