

October 6th 2026

Why we demand the suspension of OMNIBUS X

On September 17th, more than 500 scientists from many different disciplines and from many EU countries signed an open letter addressed to the European Parliament and its president, Roberta Metsola, asking to suspend temporarily the new European regulations on food safety, agriculture and animal feed. They respectfully asked that the debate be paused until a rigorous, independent assessment of the OMNIBUS X proposal related to health, environmental and administrative consequences has been carried out. The letter can be found [here](#).

However, on September 30th, the Council set its position on remaining part of the ‘**Omnibus X**’ simplification package, following the adoption on 11 May 2026 of a regulation extending data protection periods regarding biocides, and the approval, on 27 May 2026, of the Council’s negotiating position on updated rules for the sustainable use of pesticides.

According to the EU Council ‘the package aims to reduce unnecessary administrative costs and burdens, while maintaining the EU’s very high standards for **food and feed safety**, and for the protection of human and animal health and environmental protection. In practice, the proposal simplifies rules and procedures identified as particularly burdensome by stakeholders and authorities across EU legislation, from plant protection products and biocidal products, to feed, official controls and animal health and welfare”.

In practice, the whole Commission’s proposal for a “Food and Feed Safety Simplification Omnibus” represents a significant weakening of the EU’s pesticide safety framework established under Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009. With the term ‘simplification’ manages to remove several levels of protection of human

health and the environment from pesticides, Furthermore, is weakening the system of the periodic reassessment of pesticide toxicity.

On October 1st, 14 International Organisations and 8 National organisations, we jointly published our position on the **draft parliamentary report and tabled amendments on the Food and Feed Safety Omnibus**. The detailed report can be found [here](#).

- We strongly oppose proposals to grant unlimited approval for active substances
- We also oppose proposals to grant unlimited approval for biocontrol substances or low-risk substances
- We support amendments that maintain the current system of 10 years for first approval; and 15 years for renewal
- We support amendments that oblige the Commission to take action within a defined timeframe when objective criteria, such as new monitoring data or a Member State request, indicate that a concern has arisen.
- We suggest that once a substance is found to pose risks to human health or to have unacceptable effects on the environment, its MRLs should be automatically lowered to the limit of quantification (LOQ).
- We opposed to the possibility of a 'grace period' to be given to substance which is non-renewal due to concerns for human health or the environment, especially granting a grace period of up to three years.
- We do not agree to proposal removing the Member States' rights and responsibilities to conduct meaningful scientific scrutiny of products placed on their markets.
- We support amendments clarifying that only synthetic substances that are functionally and structurally identical to naturally occurring substances should fall within the scope of the biocontrol definition.
- We do not support the inclusion of heavy metals and their salts, including copper compounds, within an expanded definition of biocontrol substances.
- We strongly oppose allowing seeds intended for export to third countries to be treated with plant protection products that are not authorised in the EU.



- We are deeply concerned by the proposals to further relax restrictions on pesticide spraying by drones.
- We support amendments requiring the corresponding MRLs to be automatically revoked whenever an active substance is not approved under Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009.
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We are asking from the European Parliament not to allow the simplification agenda to become a backdoor for weakening pesticide safety. We are calling all Members of the European Parliament **to reject the proposal as a whole**, and if it proceeds, we are asking MEPs to oppose amendments that would weaken the existing safeguards; instead to support amendments that protect and strengthen pesticide safety standards.