

THE PESTICIDES POLICY PERSPECTIVE

The VI Past and Future

January 2007

Adrian Dixon
Pesticides Environment Policy Branch
Pesticides Safety Directorate



OUTLINE

- EU Pesticides policy developments
- Areas of sustainable use directive of main interest
- UK policy developments
- Role of the VI



EU Thematic Strategy Origins

Treaty of Rome (environmental objectives)

6th Environmental Action Programme

Thematic Strategy for Pesticides

Pre-marketing
authorisation
(91/414)

No
Community-based
regime
at the moment

Residue Monitoring
(MRLs/foodstuffs
and WFD)



What and how

To reduce the impacts of pesticides on human health and the environment and more generally to achieve a more sustainable use of pesticides as well as a significant overall reduction in risks and of the use of pesticides consistent with necessary crop protection

91/414
Full
implementation
and review

- New Sustainable Use Directive**
- Minimise risks to health and the environment;
 - Improve controls on use and distribution;
 - Reduce levels of harmful actives through substitution;
 - Encourage low input cultivation;
 - Transparent reporting.

Stats Reg
Measure
progress

Amend machinery directive
Certification of new application equipment



Sustainable Use Directive

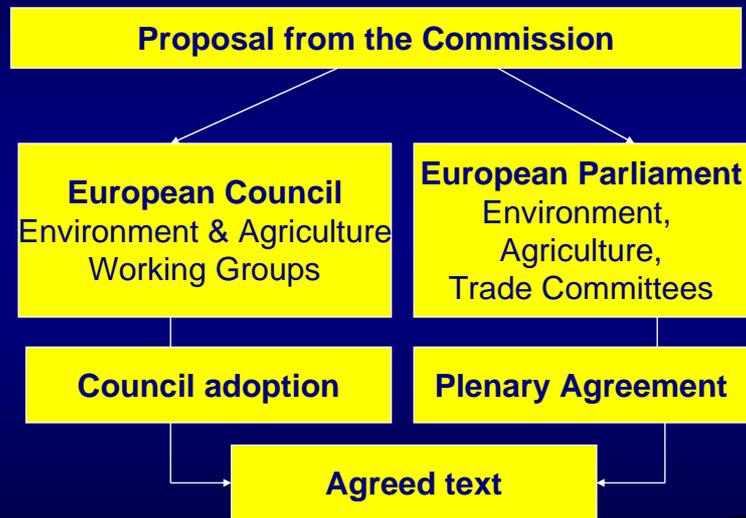


Sustainable Use Directive: Areas of interest?

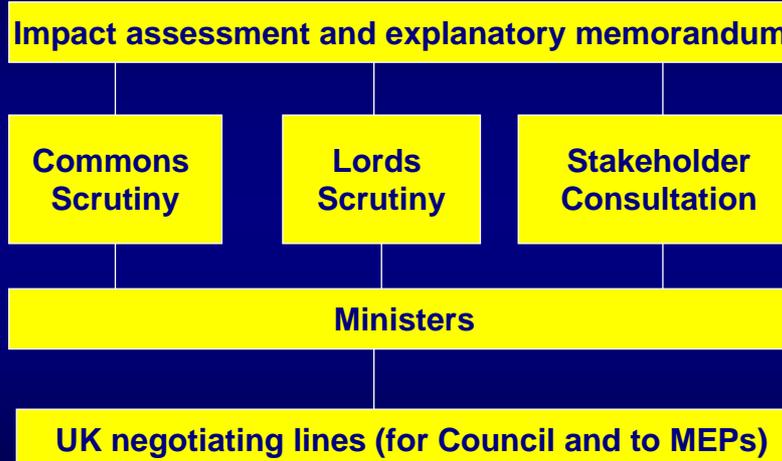
- Article 4. National action plans to reduce risks and dependence on pesticides.
- Article 5. Training and certification for users, distributors and advisers.
- Article 8. Inspection of application equipment .
- Article 10 – Protection of watercourses
 - Preferences to substances and application methods posing less risk to water;
 - Prohibition or minimisation of use along infrastructure, surfaces with risk run-off to water and sewage systems.
- Article 11. Protection of public spaces- prohibition or minimisation of use.
- Article 12. Handling and storage.
- Article 13. Integrated Pest Management



The process: co-decision



Forming the Government view



Timetable

Negotiations conclude and adoption (12-18 months)

Publication in OJ (2-3 months)

Comes into force (18 months – 2 years)



UK National Strategy Origins

Environmental
Audit
Committee

EFRA
Select
Committee

EU
Thematic
Strategy

Draft National Strategy

Consultation

UK Pesticides Strategy



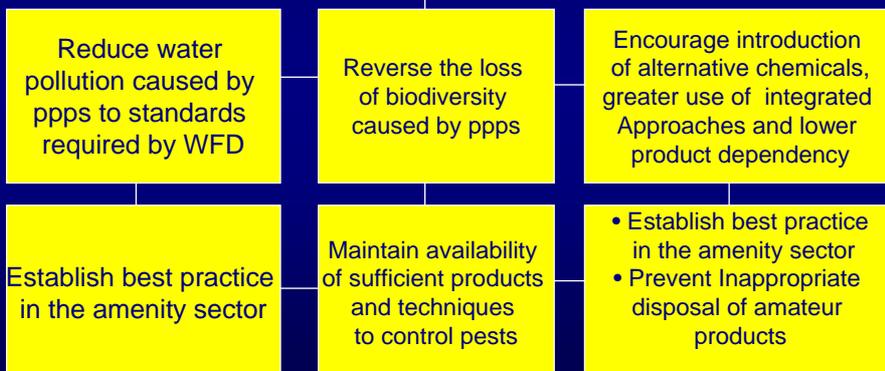
UK National Strategy: Policy considerations

- Polarised views of industry and environmental interests.
- Better regulation agenda.
- Uncertain climate for farming generally (CAP reform) and pesticide users specifically (loss of products through review of 91/414).
- International and domestic policy developments (emerging EU Thematic Strategy and response to RCEP Bystanders report).

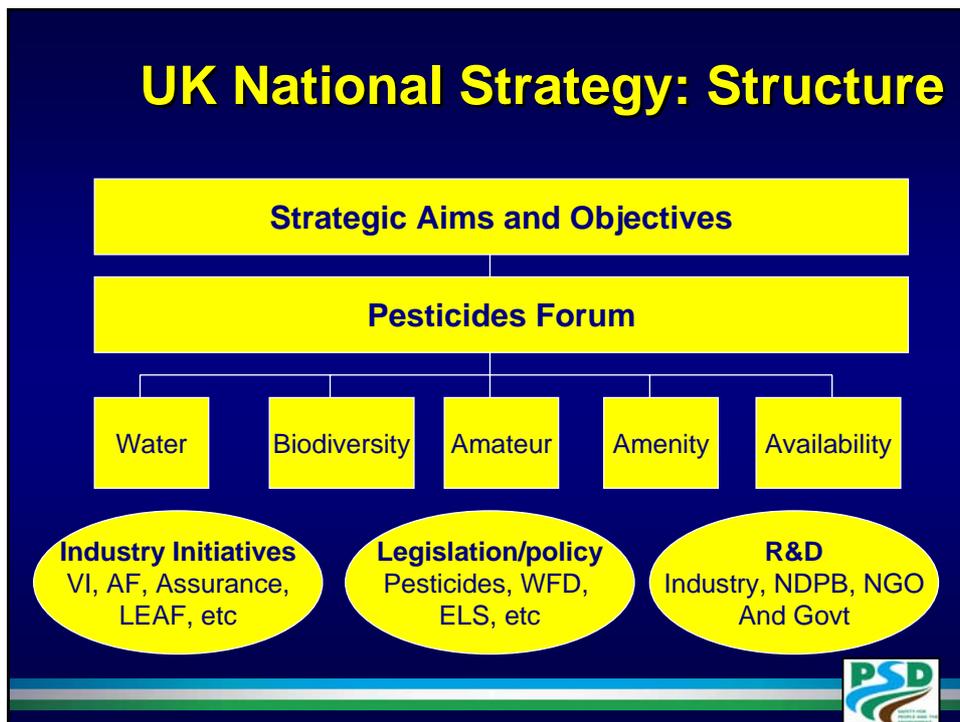


What and how

To promote uses of plant protection products that achieve high standards in environmental protection whilst maintaining the economic viability of crop production.



UK National Strategy: Structure



Strategy Action Plans

Two key impact areas addressed

- water
- biodiversity

Also two user sectors – amenity and amateur.

Cross cutting plan on availability of plant protection products



UK National Strategy: Future

- Action plans agreed early new year.
- Forum to consider February 2007.
- Annual report in Spring 2007.
- Consultation on update/revision in spring 2007.
- Updates to reflect any agreements in EU Thematic Strategy.
- 5 yearly reviews.



ROLE OF THE VI

- To complement Govt strategy
- To act as key player in changing behaviour
- To deliver benefits to water and biodiversity (but harder to assess)
- To act as a driver for continuous improvement



The Pesticides Policy Perspective

Any questions?

Adrian Dixon
Pesticides Safety Directorate
Pesticides Environment Policy Branch
01904 455701
adrian.dixon@psd.defra.gsi.gov.uk

