COMMISSION DIRECTIVE 1999/80/EC

of 28 July 1999

including an active substance (azimsulfuron) in Annex I to Council Directive 91/414/EEC concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market

(Text with EEA relevance)

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 1999/1/EC [2], hereafter referred to as the Directive, and in particular Article 6(1),

(1) Whereas in accordance with Article 6(2) of Directive 91/414/EEC Italy received on 4 March 1996 an application from Du Pont de Nemours Italiana SpA, hereafter referred to as the applicant, for the inclusion of the active substance azimsulfuron in Annex I to the Directive;

(2) Whereas in accordance with the provisions of Article 6(3) of the Directive the Commission confirmed in its Decision 97/164/EC [3] of 17 February 1997 that the dossier submitted for azimsulfuron could be considered as satisfying, in principle, the data and information requirements of Annex II and for a plant protection product containing this active substance, of Annex III to the Directive;

(3) Whereas, in accordance with Article 5(1) of the Directive, an active substance should be included for a period not exceeding 10 years in Annex I when it may be expected that there will not be any harmful effects on human or animal health or on groundwater or any unacceptable influence on the environment;

(4) Whereas for azimsulfuron, the effects on human health and the environment have been assessed, in accordance with the provisions of Article 6(2) and (4) of the Directive, for the uses proposed by the applicant; whereas Italy acting as nominated rapporteur Member State, has submitted to the Commission on 22 May 1997 the assessment report concerned;

(5) Whereas the submitted report has been reviewed by the Member States and the Commission within the Standing Committee on Plant Health; whereas this review has been finalised on 2 July 1999 in the format of the Commission review report for azimsulfuron; whereas it may be necessary to update this report to take account of technical and scientific developments; whereas in such case the conditions for the inclusion of azimsulfuron in Annex I to Directive 91/414/EEC will also need to be amended pursuant to Article 6(1) of that Directive;

(6) Whereas the dossier and the information from the review have also been submitted to the Scientific Committee on Plants for opinion; whereas this Committee has given its opinion on 4 February 1999; whereas this Committee identified potential risks to aquatic organisms and terrestrial non-target plants, whereas therefore appropriate risk mitigation measures must be taken [4];

(7) Whereas it has appeared from the various examinations made that plant protection products containing the active substance concerned may be expected to satisfy in general the requirements laid down in Article 5(1)(a),(b) and (3) of the Directive, in particular with regard to the uses which were examined; whereas therefore it is necessary to include the active substance concerned in Annex I, in order to ensure that in all Member States the authorisations of plant protection products containing the active substance concerned can be granted in accordance with the provisions of the said Directive;

(8) Whereas after inclusion a reasonable period is necessary to permit Member States to implement the provisions of Directive 91/414/EEC on plant protection products containing azimsulfuron and in particular to review, within this period, existing provisional authorisations or to grant, by the end of this period at the latest, new authorisations in accordance with the provisions of the Directive; whereas a longer period may also be required for plant protection products containing azimsulfuron and other active substances included in Annex I;

(9) Whereas it is appropriate to provide that the finalised review report (except for confidential information in the meaning of Article 14 of the Directive) is kept available or made available by the Member States for consultation by any interested parties;

(10) Whereas the review report is required for the proper implementation by the Member States, of several sections of the uniform principles laid down in Annex VI to the Directive, where these principles refer to the evaluation of the Annex II data which were submitted for the purpose of the inclusion of the active substance in Annex I of the Directive;

[1] OJ L 230, 19.8.1991, p. 1.
[2] OJ L 21, 28.1.1999, p. 21.
[3] OJ L 64, 5.3.1997, p. 17.
[4] Opinion of the Scientific Committee on Plants regarding the inclusion of azimsulfuron in Annex I to Directive 91/414/EEC concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market (SCP/AZIM/002-Final 24/02/1999)