

>>> NEWSLETTER <<<

EUROPEAN MINOR USES COORDINATION FACILITY

Minor uses, major importance.



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TOP NEWS**WINTER
EDITION**

By the MUCF team

>>> **DEAR MUCF COMMUNITY**

For most of us the winter holidays have come to an end and the new work year is in full swing, but the MUCF would still like to wish you all the best for 2024!

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The MUCF team hopes that you enjoy this Newsletter, which includes information on the Autumn 2023 expert group meetings and upcoming events in 2024.

In 2024, the MUCF will continue to support its members in their work on finding solutions to guarantee the continuation of minor crop production in Europe. The Facility will ensure that collaboration and communication between experts continues, leading to positive impacts.



MEETINGS 2024

FIRST QUARTER

➤➤➤ MUCF SPRING 2024 MEETINGS

The MUCF Spring 2024 meetings will be held remotely over several days in February and March, to allow cross-participation between the Commodity Expert Group (CEGs), the Horizontal Expert Group (HEG), and the Residue Expert Group (ReEG).



TENTATIVE CEGS, REEG AND HEG SPRING 2024 MEETING SCHEDULE

(timing might still be adjusted, registration for most of the meetings still open)

CEG Fruits & Vegetables:	2024-02-22, 09:30 – 17:00
CEG Ornamentals:	2024-03-04, 09:30 – 17:00
CEG Herbs & Spices:	2024-03-14, 10:00 – 17:00
HEG:	2024-03-19, 09:30 – 12:30
CEG Hops:	2024-03-20, 09:30 – 17:00
CEG Seeds:	2024-03-21, 09:30 – 15:30
ReEG:	2024-03-22, 09:30 – 12:30
CEG Tobacco:	2024-03-26, 14:30 – 17:30

The CEG Mushroom will meet again in Autumn 2024.

The position of Chair for the CEG Rice is still vacant.

➤➤➤ GLOBAL MINOR USE SUMMIT IV: LEVERAGING AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY FOR A GROWING WORLD

The Summit will take place from 5th to 9th of February 2024 in Madrid. The event, organized by the US Minor Use Foundation, will bring together growers, regulators, researchers, and crop protection professionals.

For more information, please visit: <https://minorusefoundation.org/gmus-4/>

The MUCF participated in the Organizing Committee of the Summit and will give a presentation about the Facility and its latest achievements in the Keynote dedicated to 'International Collaboration for Trade Facilitative Outcomes'.



AUTUMN MUCF MEETINGS 2023

»»» SOME HIGHLIGHTS

The Autumn 2023 meetings took place in Athens, from October 25th to October 27th. 71 attendees from 21 European countries gathered to discuss the latest information, hurdles, and developments on minor uses issues.

PARTICIPATION OVERVIEW PER INDIVIDUAL MUCF EXPERT GROUP

Horizontal expert group (HEG)	35 participants
Residues expert group (ReEG)	20 participants
CEG Fruits & Vegetables	39 participants
CEG Seeds	24 participants
CEG Tobacco	4 participants
CEG Ornamentals	21 participants
CEG Herbs & Spices	15 participants
Plenary Session: SUR	45 participants
Common Session	48 participants



MUCF experts gathering for the Autumn 2023 expert meetings field trip.

»»» ΣΑΣ ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΩ ΠΟΛΥ (THANK YOU VERY MUCH)!

The MUCF team express our sincere gratitude to the Benaki Phytopathological Institute and the Hellenic Ministry of Rural Development and Food for their assistance in organizing and hosting the expert meetings, field trip, and social event.

➤➤➤ CEG FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

In the session on Weeds of the CEG Fruits and Vegetables meeting, chaired by Mr. Peter Hartvig (Denmark), Mr. Matthias Eberius (representing the company CropZone) gave a presentation on the latest developments in hybrid herbicide technology.

Mode of Action: crop.zone System crop.zone

System: Controlled high voltage

1. Spray unit for volt.fuel in front
2. Mechanical energy (tractor engine)
3. Transformation into three-phase current (generator)
4. High voltage units transformation and control (2-5 kV, direct current, modules each 10 kW)
5. First electric applicator pole
6. Current flow through leaf, shoot
7. Current flow root/soil
8. Second electric applicator pole
9. Closing the circuit

Stem/leaf: Interrupting waterflow

1. Stem/leaf with electrical resistances
2. Spray
3. Contacting and interrupting the water conduction bundles
4. Siccation / Maturing

25.10.2023 a crop.zone presentation 6

CEG Fruits and Vegetables, session Weeds. Screenshot, presentation given by Mr Eberius on hybrid herbicide technology.

Mr Hartvig reported the results of a survey of MUCF experts in several countries to identify alternatives to glyphosate in fruit and berries.

3. Alternatives to glyphosate mentioned for all crops

	Countries x Crops
• Mechanical	32
• MCPA	23
• Pelargonic acid	23
• Fluazifob-p-butyl	16
• Pyraflufen-ethyl	15
• Carfentrazol-ethyl	10
• Iodosulfuron + foramsulfuron	9

CEG Fruits and Vegetables, session Weeds, Screenshot, presentation given by Mr Hartvig about the results of survey on glyphosate alternatives in fruit and berries.

These two presentations highlighted potential future areas of work regarding weed control. They provided a broad information base to adapt weed management towards more IPM-oriented solutions.

Ms Theodora Nikolopoulou (Greece), chaired the CEG Vegetables (focus on Fungicide and Insecticide) for the first time. We thank her for her commitment in supporting this working group with her expertise.

»»» CEG ORNAMENTALS

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The CEG Ornamentals discussed recent studies on Plant Growth Regulators (PGRs), which were conducted in several European countries. Ms Elisabeth Götte (Pflanzenschutzdienst NRW, Germany) and Mr Marc Vissers (Proefcentrum Sierteelt PCS, Belgium) provided an overview of a survey outcome regarding the control of thrips and soil-borne diseases.



Ms. Johanna Jansson and Mr. Laurent Jacob chairing the CEG Ornamentals.

»»» CEG HERBS & SPICES

During the CEG Fresh Herbs and Spices meeting, 3 presentations were given by representatives of national research bodies specialised in herb production and protection: Iteipmai (France), the Hungarian Herbal Association (Hungary), and the Herbs & Spices Minor Uses Sub-group of the AK-Lück (Germany). The meeting also covered the extrapolation process regarding plant protection product residues, as well as current PPP solutions available to be used in herbs and spices production.



Ms. Claire Donkin chairing the CEG Herbs and Spices.

»»» CEG SEEDS

Ms Camille Guerin (France) provided an extensive update on the needs and available active substances in seed production.

Mr. Jürgen Kohl and Ms. Georgina Elena from the [Wageningen University](#), presented the latest research results on beneficial micro-organisms for ensuring seed health.

Outlook:

Ensuring seed health through beneficial micro-organisms

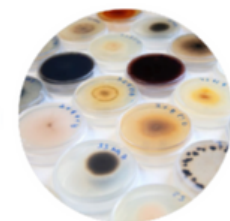
Research

- Explore functions of the seed microbiome
- Support development and application of biological control on seeds

Joint initiative needed:

New biological control agents for minor use seed treatments

- Seed producers, biocontrol industry, authorities, research institutes



CEG Seeds, Screenshot, presentation given by Ms Elena and Mr Köhl on micro-organism research to improve seed health.

»»» PLENARY SESSION

In accordance with MUCF experts' wishes, the Facility arranged a plenary session to present various views on the [Sustainable Use Regulation](#), which was then to be voted on by the European Parliaments in November 2023. Representatives from several stakeholders, including Euroseeds, International Biocontrol Manufacturers Association (IBMA), Copa*Cogeca, and CropLife Europe, presented their perspectives on the Regulation and the various implications of its implementation for their future work.

On November 22, 2023, the European Parliament voted against implementing the Sustainable Use Regulation (with 299 votes against, 207 in favour, and 121 abstentions).

»»» HEG

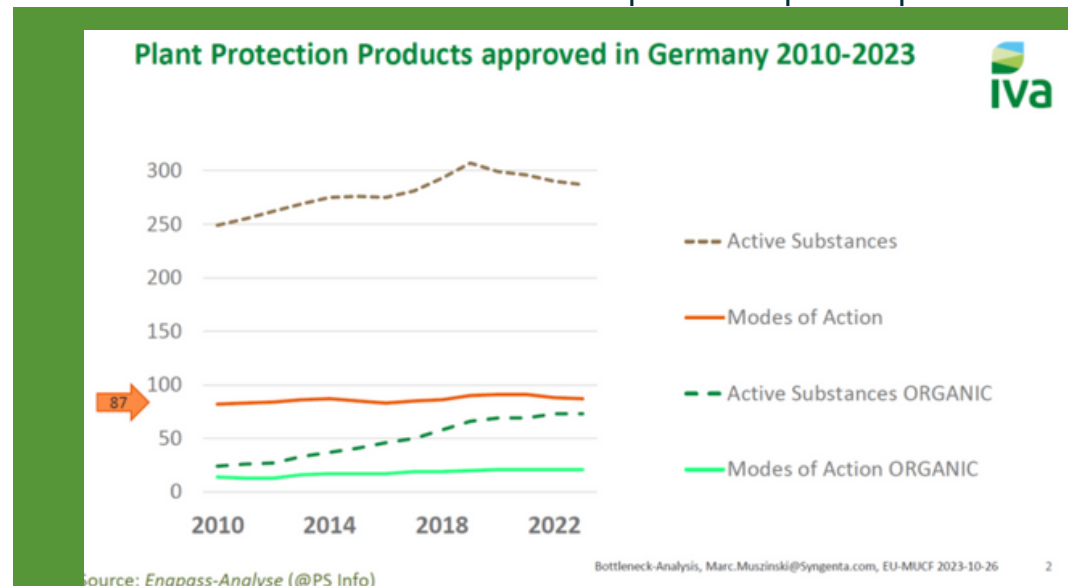
During the HEG meeting, the MUCF presented the main outcomes of the 2022 MUCF survey, dedicated to minor uses regulatory procedures and hurdles, and provided an activity update for 2023, and a work outlook for 2024. Next work steps to be taken to draft a simplified draft Registration Report part A template for article 51 applications (according to Regulation (EC) 1107/2009) was elaborated and unmanned aerial spray systems in agriculture were discussed.

»»» COMMON SESSION

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At the common session Mr. Marc Muszinski (Syngenta Germany, presenting on behalf of the German Industry Association <https://www.iva.de>), provided a bottleneck-analysis overview detailed per crop and pest illustrating the decrease in chemical control options during the last decade at the level of crop + pest + mode of action.

The database tool (in German) to conduct the bottleneck analysis was developed and is maintained by the German Dienstleistungszentrum Ländlicher Raum Rheinpfalz (DLR). The tool provides an overview of the number of registered active substances and allows the search to be refined for specific crops and pest.



Common session, Screenshot, presentation given by Mr Muszinski about a bottleneck -analysis, which highlighted the decrease of PPP control options.

»»» REEG:

The recently established ReEG held its inaugural meeting in Athens after finalising its Terms of Reference during the Spring meeting 2023. This expert group aims to explore potential new MRL extrapolation possibilities. The focus of the discussions was the procedure for setting MRLs, ongoing residue extrapolation projects in Spain on citrus and mango, as well as proposals for future projects.



Mr. Hohgardt (left) and Mr. Alonso-Prados (right) chairing the ReEG meeting.



➤➤➤ FIELD TRIP

MUCF experts visited a minor crops production facility: the Kitantzis Plants & Supplies ornamentals nursery in Marathon. The company has been involved in the Floriculture and Agriculture industry in Greece since 1964 and is now the leader of the floriculture sector in the country.

We extend our gratitude to Konstantinos Kitantzis, Ioannis Kitantzis, and the entire nursery team for welcoming us and providing an informative guided tour of their facility, and on the measures they implemented to control harmful organisms.



MUCF experts at the ornamental plant nursery.

➤➤➤ SOCIAL GET-TO-GETHER



MUCF experts during the social dinner.

THE AUTUMN 2023 MEETINGS OF TWO MUCF EXPERT GROUPS WERE HELD ON SEPARATE DAYS AND LOCATIONS.

»»» CEG MUSHROOM

On October 10th, the CEG Mushrooms held an online meeting to discuss newly established research trials in France, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. The trials aim to test plant protection solutions against bacterial blotch disease, sciarid flies, and other mushroom pests and diseases.

»»» CEG HOPS

The CEG Hops experts held their meeting in Nürnberg, Germany, on November 27th. The meeting was hosted by the [Barthhass Company](#).

They discussed key topics related to hops' production and protection, including *Verticillium* diseases, downy mildew, exceptional weather conditions leading to higher pest pressure (especially for aphids), and spider mites.

We would like to express our gratitude to the Barthhaas company for hosting the meeting and for the opportunity to visit their brewery.







Hops experts during their annual Autumn meeting.

➤➤➤ MUCF GOVERNANCE UPDATES

The MUCF Steering Group held its Winter meeting on November 30th. Mr Jan Waespe (Switzerland) has chaired the MUCF Steering group for the past two years, and we thank him for his committed work during this time. He stepped down from this role after the Winter 2023 meeting and Mr Peter Windegger (Austria) was appointed as the new Chair of the MUCF Steering Group for 2024-2026. We are also pleased to announce that Ireland will join the Steering Group in 2024.

A VISUAL SUMMARY OF THE MUCF STEERING GROUP MEMBER COUNTRIES AND THEIR TERMS IN OFFICE:

MUCF Member Countries	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Austria (chairing)								
Belgium								
Denmark								
Germany								
Italy								
Lithuania								
Netherlands								
Slovak Republic								
Sweden								
Switzerland								
Ireland								

 Newly appointed MUCF Steering Group Member Countries in 2022-2023.
 Countries continue in office after the end of their first term.
 MUCF Steering Group Member Countries in 2021.
 New MUCF Steering Group Member Country in 2024.

➤➤➤ CHANGE IN MUCF STAFF

Ms Nathalie Boutron, who has been part of the MUCF team since 2016, has resigned from her position as IT Officer to now concentrate on supporting EPPO's IT work. Throughout her time at MUCF, Nathalie developed and maintained MUCF databases and tools, and provided IT support on several levels. We thank her for her contributions.

➤➤➤ EUMUDA UPDATES

EUMUDA now includes a new database, that allows information to be retrieved on minor/major crop status. The aim of the [MUCF minor/major crops database](#) is to centralise information on crop status (minor and major crops) across European countries. It currently contains information for 12 countries, with the objective of gathering and incorporating data from additional countries in the coming years.



Follow the [MUCF on LinkedIn](#) to stay up-to-date with the latest MUCF updates and upcoming events.

#MinorUsesMajorImportance and #LetsTalkAboutMinorUses