



EurEau comments on the SAIO Regulation

1. Introduction

The European Parliament's Agriculture Committee approved its position on the proposed **Regulation on statistics on agricultural input and output**, and Council adopted its "Mandate for negotiations with the European Parliament". The Trilogue with Member States is now starting. This legislative act is paramount as it should ensure the availability of the data needed to measure progress towards the reduction target at the core of the EU Farm to Fork Strategy: the 50% reduction in the use of pesticides. Its outcome will have significant repercussions on the quality of drinking water resources.

EurEau is largely supportive of the European Parliament amendments and encourages the Parliament to insist on them in the Trilogue negotiations.

EurEau members are committed to continuously supplying EU citizens with healthy, wholesome and affordable drinking water. The **Drinking Water Directive (DWD)** sets stringent quality requirements (parametric values) for hazardous substances including pesticides and nitrate. Furthermore, Member States will only be able to meet the requirements of article 8 (DWD) 'Risk assessment and risk management of the catchment areas for abstraction points of water intended for human consumption', if drinking water authorities have access to reliable information about potential pollution sources.

Diffuse pollution from agriculture is one of the main sources for the contamination of drinking water resources (mainly groundwater and surface water). Pollutants from agriculture include pesticides, fertilisers (nitrate) and veterinary pharmaceuticals.

2. Help us to protect drinking water resources

Drinking water suppliers must have access to reliable up-to-date information on the substances applied to farmland and farm animals, including on the name of the substance, the quantity applied, the exact location and the moment in time.

Frequency of the data collection: EurEau fully supports the proposal of the Commission and the Parliament's position to collect data on the use of pesticides **annually** (Annex). In this context, EurEau calls on the Parliament to defend its addition to article 7.2 limiting excluding the data collected in accordance with Article 5(1), point (d). from possible exemptions.



- *Only annual data enable water suppliers to draw meaningful conclusions on the risk for the contamination of drinking water resources. Raising data once every five years would be useless for our sector.*

Types of plant protection products covered: EurEau is in favour of art. 4.4 as amended by the Parliament. All active substances, also those not approved through Regulation No 540/2011 must be covered (Article 4(4)(b)).

- *Compliance with the parametric value for pesticides fixed in the Drinking Water Directive comprises all pesticides independently of their possible approval through Regulation No 540/2011.*

Collection of data on "Area treated": Parliament approved another highly relevant amendment in art.4 by stipulating that records on pesticides should cover the **quantities** and the **name of the active substances** used, (the dose of application), the **date of application**, and the **surface area** where they were used.

- *The Commission proposal as amended by Parliament covers exactly the type of information that water suppliers and drinking water authorities need to assess risks for the contamination of drinking water resources and comply with the DWD. This includes data on the 'area treated' (field) as a key component.*

Types of collected data: EurEau is fully aligned with the European Parliament regarding the extension of data collection to **biocidal products, fertilisers, veterinary medicinal products for animals and antibiotics in feeding stuffs** (recital 3, art. 4.4 (a), art. 5.1 (d)).

- *As outlined above, nitrate and, increasingly, veterinary medicines contaminate drinking water resources (groundwater, surface water). Up-to-date information on the potential sources is a crucial step towards better water protection and meeting the requirements of the Water Framework Directive, the Groundwater Directive and the Nitrate Directive and, consequently, the DWD.*

Data sources: EurEau can wholeheartedly subscribe to the Parliament additions in art. 8.3 (a)new, and 8.3 (b)new. **Existing mandatory records** of pesticides use kept by professional users should be used as the source of the data. This implies that national competent authorities request this data referring to art. 67(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009.

- *Using existing records is by far the most cost-effective methods to collect data.*



About EurEau

EurEau is the voice of Europe's water sector. We represent drinking water and waste water operators from 29 countries in Europe, from both the private and the public sectors.

Our members are 34 national associations of water services. At EurEau, we bring national water professionals together to agree European water sector positions regarding the management of water quality, resource efficiency and access to water for Europe's citizens and businesses. The EurEau secretariat is based in Brussels.



EurEau

With a direct employment of around 476,000 people, the European water sector makes a significant contribution to the European economy.