

19.05.2022 – BTO of the meeting with BASF.

Participants:

- DG SANTE: [REDACTED]
- BASF: [REDACTED]

Meeting held at the request of BASF

BASF:

- Asked DG SANTE whether the reduction target for the use of pesticides and fertilisers were set with a specific goal to achieve as regard biodiversity. BASF also stressed the importance of defining specific outcome or results that these targets need to achieve.
- Highlighted the need for industry to have a stable and clear regulatory framework, in order to foster innovation and new technologies in the field of crop protection.
- Stressed that, while precision agriculture and alternative technologies could support the Farm to Fork goals of reduction of use of pesticides, clear incentives for these methods are still lacking in the current regulatory system.
- Explained that as regards digital and precision agriculture, it is necessary to ensure technological availability on a large scale, together with financial incentives and the availability of data.
- Highlighted that the role of biological protection will continue to grow in the coming years but stressed that they cannot constitute the ultimate solutions for the reduction of use of pesticides target and for ensuring a stable level of productivity.

DG SANTE:

- Explained that the targets of the Farm to Fork strategy were presented with the intention of giving a direction for farmers and the industry.
- Stressed that the Commission is also working on the issue of the availability of alternatives.
- Asked BASF which kind of incentives would be needed as regards precision agriculture.
- Invited BASF to share their views on the pesticides targets, as well as the issue of the protection of biodiversity.