

To: Mrs. Dr. Vassiliou



European Commissioner for Health  
Berlaymont  
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About 100 European potato blight experts (= Euroblight working group) from 17 EU countries gathered on the 28 – 30 of October 2008 in Hamar in Norway to discuss new strategies for early (*Alternaria*) and late blight (*Phytophthora*) control.

At this meeting the revision of 91.414 has been discussed. This revision could lead to a serious loss of a great number of active ingredients putting in danger sustainable control strategies of early and late blight. The proposals would lead to significant yield losses, loss of quality and hinders effective Integrated Control Strategies eg active resistance management as discussed at the ENDURE conference in La Grande Motte at South France and communicated by the Fungicide Resistance Action Committee (FRAC).

The increased aggressiveness of *Phytophthora infestans* was discussed intensively at the workshop. New strains of the *Phytophthora* disease have spread over the EU. The workshop also concluded that *Alternaria* is an increasing problem. Effective fungicides covering different modes of action are required to control these important potato pathogens. The EU blight experts conclude that sustainable control strategies must include fungicides with different modes of action.

Impact analyses which are already available in The Netherlands, Great Britain, Germany, Sweden. indicate that the current COMMON POSITION taken by the council and the Ministeries of Agriculture in which crucial fungicides will be lost, will lead to unacceptable impacts on yield, quality, food safety and rural economies.

We request the EU COMMISSION fully investigates the impact of the revision of directive EU EC 91/414 for European potato industry before any decision will be taken.

The management team on behalf of the Euroblight group

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