

## **Over 30 scientists warn against Food and Feed Safety Simplification Omnibus in ‘Science’ journal**

Over 30 international scientists warn against the consequences of the planned Food and Feed Safety Simplification Omnibus in an article in the renowned ‘Science’ journal, arguing that it will weaken protection against pesticide risks, if approved in the present form. The scientists say that meeting international and European commitments to nature restoration “requires higher, not lower, environmental protection standards” and that the Omnibus could lock the EU into “outdated, underprotective assessments”, weakening accountability and scientific scrutiny.

Welcoming this article, SAFE’s Deputy Director Luigi Tozzi said: “The Food and Feed Omnibus will result in open-ended authorisations for most pesticides, without any procedure to review their impact on human health and the environment. We have already raised these concerns, and we welcome that they are now backed by a numerous group of specialists, too. The European Commission should take immediate action to address them.”

SAFE believes that reducing bureaucracy, a positive policy goal especially for biocontrol and low risk substances, must not come at the expense of lower protection against pesticide risks.

For SAFE, other worrying aspects of the Omnibus are grace periods of up to three years for banned pesticides, which can delay the development of more sustainable plant protection products, and the procedure granting approval of any new pesticide in all Member States, after approval in only one country.

In the article, a contribution published under the Policy Forum section of ‘Science’, the group of scientists recommends measures to correct the most problematic aspects of the draft legislation, such as reforming the assignment of evaluating Member States, increasing the staff of EFSA experts, granting open access to the manufacturers’ studies, and post authorization monitoring of the pesticide use.