

Working with FOCUS scenarios to achieve registration of pesticides in the EU

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Putting plant protection products (PPPs) on the market in the European Union is covered by the EU Directive 91/414/EEC. The estimation of the predicted environmental concentration (PECs) in different environmental compartments is required on a regular basis. Companies requesting registration have to provide the authorities with a full scale dossier in which among other topics also the environmental behaviour and effects of PPPs is described. To provide guidance for this estimation the FOCUS-organisation was set up by the Commission (COM) and the Member States (MSs). FOCUS stands for the FORum for the Coordination of pesticide fate models and their USE. First an inventory was carried out which models could be considered suitable for this task and next standardised scenarios were developed, which described the agricultural activity to a sufficient detailed extent that they could be considered representative in the EU. Finally, there were defined 9 groundwater and 10 surface water scenarios.

The PECs determined with the models used and the scenarios developed should be used now to provide criteria for granting a registration in the EU for a specific substance, use and application method.

Current experience with the models and scenarios will be discussed, proposals will be presented on further improvements and suggestions for additional research will be dealt with. Finally some conclusions and recommendations for wider use of methods and strategy of the FOCUS framework will be presented.