



**COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CULTURE DU HOUBLON**  
**INTERNATIONAL HOP GROWERS' CONVENTION - INTERNATIONALES HOPFENBAUBÜRO**

France

IHGC Secretariat,  
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## **IHGC resolution - EU plant protection legislation policy**

In 2008 the International Hop Growers' Convention (IHGC) represents already 32 national hop producing associations and hop merchants' companies from 20 countries worldwide. The 12 of them are located within the EU and produced over 50% of the world hop crop in 2007. The IHGC covers various aspects of the hop industry, but one of the main objects is to secure plant protection within a quality management of brewing raw materials like hops.

There is an estimation within the IHGC that EU hop growers today have significantly smaller assortment of plant protection products than 15 years ago. For example, at that time there were 10 insecticides available, while nowadays only 3 of them are left. Furthermore, an additional limit of the assortment of plant production products since the nineties is linked to the hop exports into the third countries because of non-EU harmonized MRL's (maximum residue levels) of active ingredients e. g. in the USA, Canada or Japan. Only hops sprayed with plant protection products registered also in the third (non EU) countries are allowed for use in hop production going into overseas exports. As a result, meanwhile, the hop growers worldwide have even been forced to introduce three separate plant protection programs for every crop.

IHGC hop industry delegates from EU as well as those from the third countries consider that further restrictions within the proposal for an EU registration process of plant protection products, as now discussed, will harmfully affect the world wide trade of hops and thus consequently the supply of the brewing industry.

Beside this, predictions of leading EU hop growing countries clearly warn against a possible black scenario, if amendments of the EU plant protection legislation turn out to be too restrictive. One example could be pointed out on a number of future offered insecticides and acaricides. From the three available products there might remain only one or even no more registered in the future concerning the new cut-off criteria. Thus, if growers do not have adequate choice, they will have to use excessively products which are still available, even if they effect poor results. Such a restriction will at least lead to heavier use of chemicals. Furthermore, this means also the end of the integrated plant protection system and the modern resistance management which are state of the art within today's hop production.

The IHGC does consider that the harmonization of plant protection policies in the EU and in third countries is very important to secure hop growers an equal framework for their production and export around the world to supply the brewing industry with sufficient and quality hops.

Dr. Martin Pavlovič  
Secretary General IHGC

**COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL  
DE LA CULTURE DU HOUBLON  
Strasbourg (France)**