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RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

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DE L'AGRICULTURE
ET DE
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The Robbery of Plant Protection Products (PPPs)

CEUREG XXI

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CONTENTS

1) Presentation of the BNEVP

2) The robbery of PPPs in France

3) Proposals and one of the priorities of BNEVP



Organisation

BNEVP is directly
attached to the
Directorate
for food (DGAL)

**French Ministry of
Agriculture and Food.**

Nationwide investigations
and frequent collaborations
with **Central offices of
Gendarmerie, Police
and Customs.**



Main domains of intervention in Phytosanitary field

- **Misappropriation of use of PPPs**
- **Distribution of non-authorized PPPs**
- **Trade of illegal and counterfeited products:**
 - on a national scale
 - **on European and international scales**
- **Supervision of production, storage and marketing sectors**





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The robbery of PPPs in France:

- **Significant issue** for distributors and farmers everywhere in France.
- **Marked increase** in the number of cases during the last years, with **a peak for the past three years.**
- **The cost of robberies** could reach on average from **5 to 6 million of euros/year.**

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The robbery of PPPs in France

.Economic issues for distributors (most of them are not covered for robberies).

.Environmental and public issues

.(a PPP is authorized in a member state under certain conditions.The use of certain pesticides is not consistent with local and special characteristics).

.A “Mafia” system.



The robbery of PPPs: How do gangs of thieves operate in France?

- .Know farms and distributors : choice of targets.**
- .Operate during the night.**
- .Select expensive PPPs for certain crops, e.g. linen.**
- .Act very fast and behave discreetly.**
- .Load onto trucks quickly and leave as they have come.**
- .Drive away often from France to other countries.**



The robbery of PPPs: Mafia-like networks

- .Sent to Eastern Europe and re-sold there illegally.**
- .(re)packaging and/or relabelling of the PPPs.**
- .Therefore loss of traceability : Failure to reclaim batches if product problems occur.**



The robbery of PPPs: How can we improve the fight against this kind of trafficking?

.Ensure traceability. In France, the phytosanitary industry sets up a protection system based on a Flash code system (Datamatrix code):

.that doesn't intrinsically turn out to be safe enough.

.The Flash code contains three pieces of information:

.- GTIN (Global Trade Item Number) code, that identifies the product.

.- The formulation batch number.

.- The production date.



.This information is also written on the labelling or the container.



The robbery of PPPs: How can we improve the fight against this kind of trafficking?

Specify the labelling requirements for plant protection products (Regulation 547/2011 UE)

« COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) N° 547/2011 of 8 June 2011, implementing Regulation (EC) N° 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards labelling requirements for plant protection products »

ANNEX I

LABELLING REQUIREMENTS AS REFERRED TO ARTICLE 1

The following information shall be included *clearly and indelibly on the packaging of plant protection products* :..... »



The robbery of PPPs: How can we improve the fight against this kind of trafficking?

- What is meant by « included clearly and indelibly on the packaging of the plant protection product »?
- A basic sticker affixed to the container is enough:
But easy to eliminate, falsify or replace.
- **Impose an indelible inscription on the container of the product** = a good way to cross information from the container with the flash code data.



The robbery of PPPs: Proposals

.Need for better cooperation between Member States and other countries concerned:

.It is by acting together that our vision of control of PPPs market will be effective.

.Need to have informal and repeated contacts between us are essential:

.It is by sharing information on the stolen PPPs to localize them rapidly in the country where they could be re-sold.





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The robbery of PPPs: Proposals

.Relevance of local controls that enable the discovery of the products.

.Reinforced need of collaborations with Central offices of Gendarmerie, Police and Customs.



The robbery of PPPs in France: A priority of BNEVP

.Prohibit re-packaging.

.Gain recognition of the importance and value of a double traceability.

.Impose an indelible inscription on the container of the product.

**Tracability has been a main issue for many
years**





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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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