

Update on the ECHA guidance for the risk assessment of bees and other arthropod pollinators

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Musca caesar (Linnaeus, 1758; Macquart, 183) Blow fly.
source: Christian Kantner

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Background: COM Mandate to ECHA

In Dec 2019 mandate to

- develop a guidance for assessing the risks to **arthropod pollinators (including bees)**, taking into account EFSA's Guidance Document
- to specify the information required to enable a conclusion by the evaluating authority



ECHA expert group

Austria

Switzerland

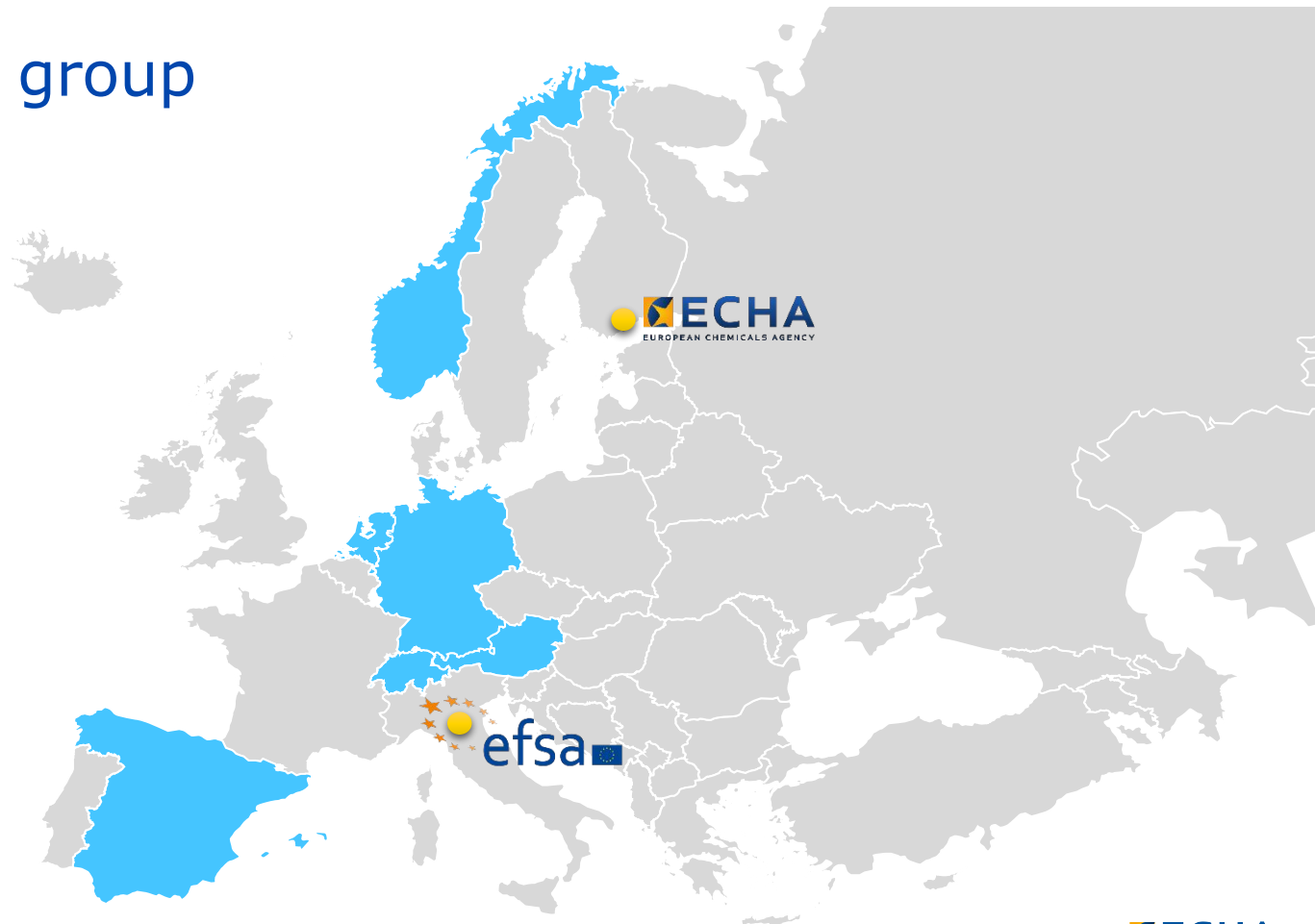
Germany

Netherlands

Norway

Spain

EU (ECHA, EFSA)



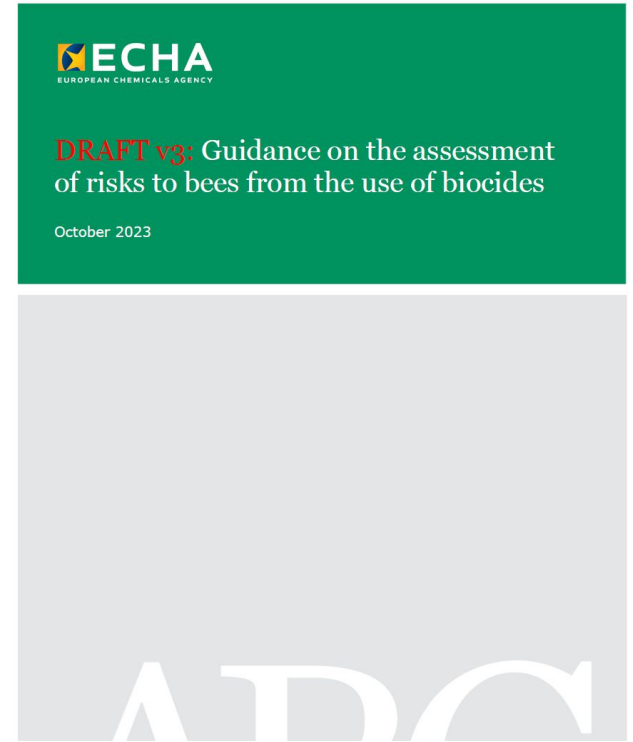
Development process



*Preliminary considerations for ECHA’s guidance on the “Methodology to assess the risk to bees and other non-target arthropod pollinators from the use of biocides” [7957c0f8-5ded-4a6e-17a7-2a899bbb141a \(europa.eu\)](https://www.echa.europa.eu/en/consultations/7957c0f8-5ded-4a6e-17a7-2a899bbb141a)

ECHA Draft guidance on the risk assessment of bees

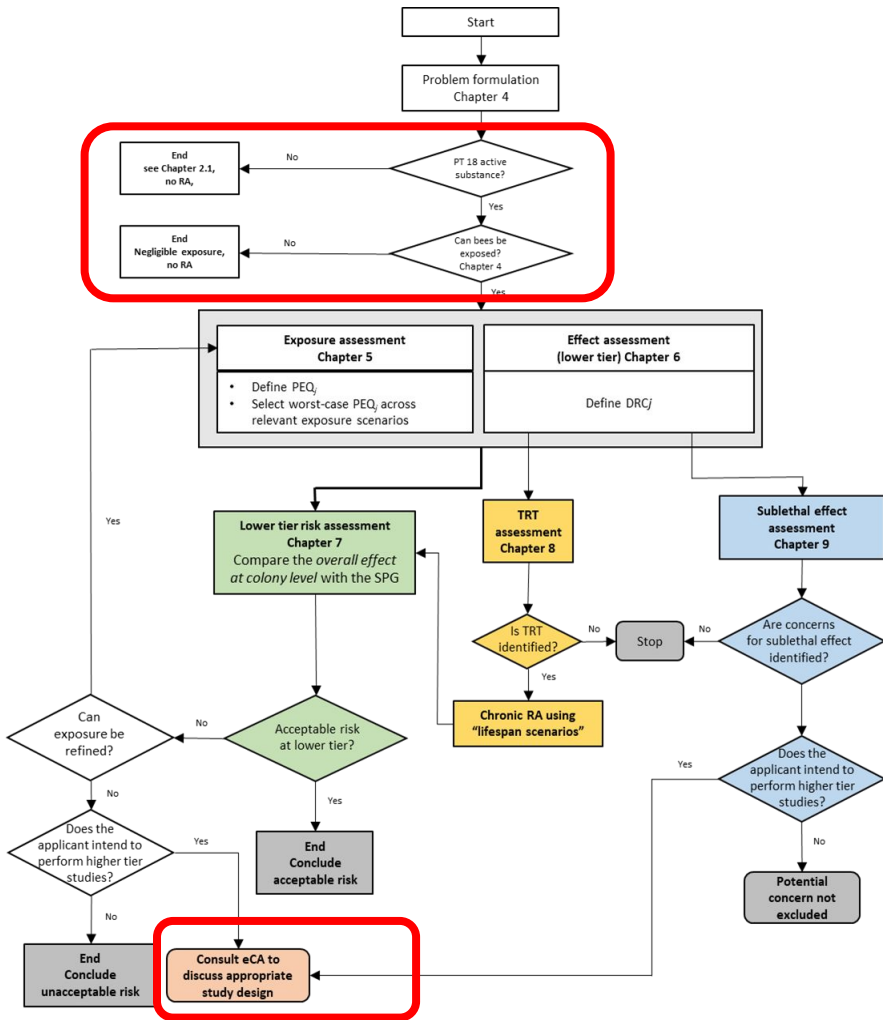
- Risk assessment scheme – Ch 3
- Problem formulation – Ch 4
- Exposure assessment – Ch 5
- Effects – lower tier – Ch 6
- Lower tier RA – Ch 7
- Time reinforced toxicity – Ch 8 *New*
- Sublethal effects – Ch 9 *New*
- Higher tier RA – Ch 10
- Metabolites – Ch 11
- Mixtures – Ch 12
- Risk mitigation measures – Ch 13
- Recommendations – Ch 15



Comparison between ECHA and EFSA Bee guidance

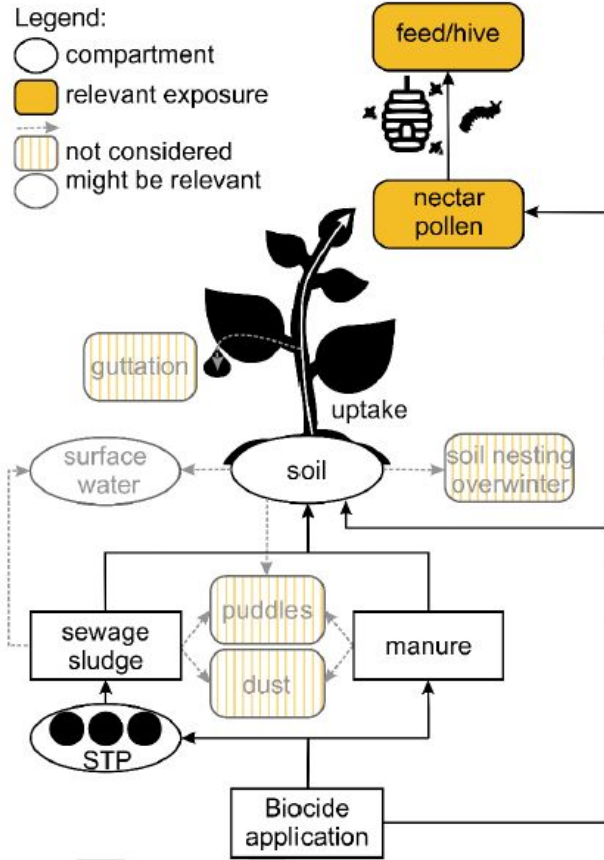
- Transfer of assessment framework from PPPs to biocides?
- Specific protection goal for honey bee (10 %) ✓
 - Standard testing methods ✓
 - Exposure calculations – with certain adaptations ✓
 - Lower tier risk assessment – with some adaptations ✓
 - Higher tier assessment – not directly suitable

Risk assessment scheme for biocides



- A similar scheme as in the revised EFSA guidance is applied
- Biocide specific aspects: problem formulation (+exposure assessment) and higher tier risk assessment

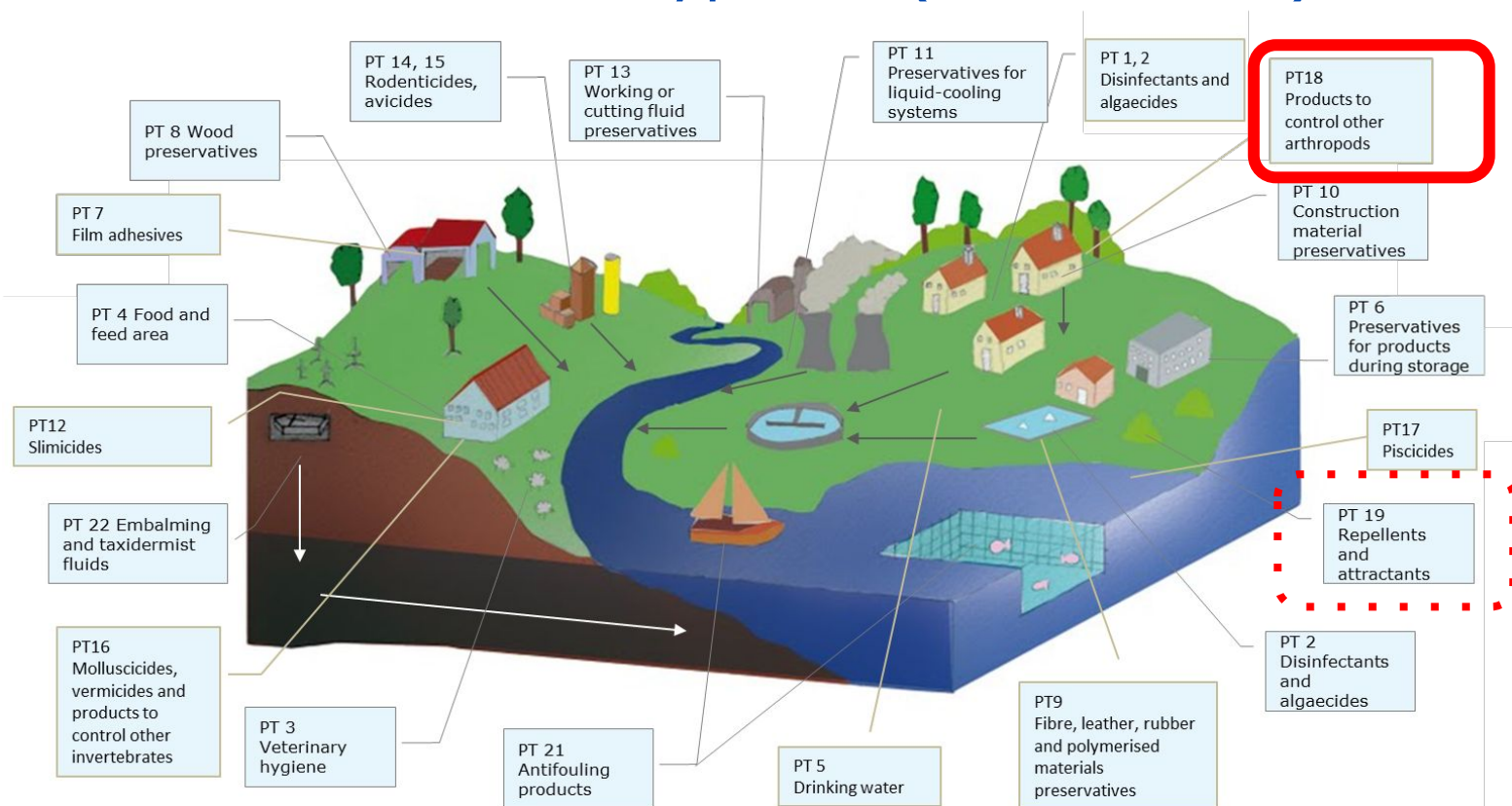
Pathways of biocides exposure to bees



→ **Oral exposure** during consumption of contaminated pollen and nectar

→ **Contact exposure** via direct contact to biocide or contaminated matrices

Focus on Product Type 18 (insecticides)



Relevant sources of exposure – PT18

- Application of manure/sludge from animal housing
- Spraying on walls and foundation of buildings
- Irrigation of private gardens with treated water
- Outdoor large-scale spraying



Publication on non-bee pollinators (ECHA 2022)



European arthropods and their role in pollination:
scientific report of their biodiversity, ecology and
sensitivity to biocides.
September 2022



Figure 4: *Musca caesar* (Linnaeus, 1758; Macquart, 183) Blow fly.
source: Christian Kantner

Identified key data gaps:

- Lack of standard TGs
- Lack of information on the basic ecology and biology
- Lack of information on the most relevant route of exposure and life stage
- Lack of commercially available test species

Non-bee pollinators (NBP): future development



Vanessa cardui (Linnaeus, 1758) The painted lady.
source: Christian Kantner

Due to the identified data gaps, not possible to propose a risk assessment scheme

Intent to cover NBP under non-target terrestrial arthropods assessment – Update required for the existing biocide guidance documents

Outcome and results from relevant scientific projects will be important for the future guidance developments

Summary

- ECHA Bee guidance developed by taking into account guidance for PPPs – with biocide specific adaptations
- First version of the ECHA Bee guidance planned for publication in Q1/2024
- Focus is on insecticidal biocides (PT18) and uses with potential significant exposure to bees
- For non-bee pollinators description of current state of knowledge - further research needed to define a method for quantitative risk assessment

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