PESTICIDES STEERING NETWORK – IUCLID SUBGROUP
16th meeting

27-28 October 2026
09:30-17:00 /09:30-12:00
Minutes agreed on 17 November 2026

Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- **Network Participants:**

Country	Member State Organisation
Austria	Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety AGES)
Belgium	Federal Public Service Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment
Croatia	Croatian Agency for Agriculture and Food (HAPIH)
Czech Republic	Central Institute for Supervising and Testing in Agriculture (ÚKZÚZ)
Denmark	Danish Environmental Protection Agency (DEPA)
Estonia	Agriculture and Food Board
Finland	Finnish Chemicals Agency (TUKES)
France	French agency for food, environmental and occupational health & safety (ANSES)
Germany	German Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL) German Federal Environment Agency (UBA) German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)
Greece	Hellenic Ministry of Rural Development and Food
Hungary	National Food Chain Safety Office
Ireland	Pesticide Registration Division, Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine
Italy	International Centre for Pesticides and Health Risk Prevention (ICPS)
Latvia	State Plant Protection Service of Latvia
Poland	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Merit Mark
Portugal	General Directorate for Food and Veterinary (DGAV)
Slovak Republic	Central Control and Testing Institute in Agriculture
Slovenia	Administration for Food Safety, Veterinary Sector and Plant Protection
Spain	Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC), Centro Nacional Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Tecnología Agraria y Alimentaria (INIA), Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación
Sweden	Swedish Food Agency

	Swedish Chemicals Agency

- **Observers**
  Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office FSVO (Switzerland);
  Food Safety Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Bosnia and Herzegovina);
  Plant Protection Central Research Institute (Turkey)

- **European Commission**
  European Commission Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety

- **Other EU Agencies representatives:**
  European Chemical Agency (ECHA)

- **Industry representatives**
  Crop Life Europe (CLE); European Association of Regulatory Consultants and Contract Research Laboratories (EACL); International Biocontrol Manufacturers Association (IBMA);

- **EFSA**

PREV: SCARLATO Alessia Pia, TIRAMANI Manuela, COLAGIORGI Angelo, FERREIRA Lucien, VERANI Alessia, KARDASSI Dimitra, BERNASCONI Giovanni, FRIEL Anja, CAPUTI Mariafrancesca

PLANTS: SERAFIMOVA Rositsa

FDP: MACCHI Chiara, DELFINO Alessandro, RAMON Matthew, GUERRA Davide, , ASSELLO Clara, CECCARELLI Daniela

IDATA: CÉSAR RAZQUIN Adrián, ROLANDO Pier Lorenzo, GISSI Andrea, CARNESECCHI Edoardo, BUZLE Dayana, BONDI Gabriele, Di FONZO Gianrico

LA: FALESSI Nicole, SCHENONE Silvia, DE WILLIENCOURT Iris, MAWED Angela

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from (NL, MT).

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Action items from previous meetings

EFSA presented the status of actions from previous meetings. Two actions related to the IUCLID manuals concerned the possible expansion of instructions on report generator and clarification concerning minor crops. EFSA confirmed that these topics had been taken into account and would be further addressed during the meeting.

EFSA confirmed that detailed replies to comments submitted by BfR during the MRL Report testing phase had been provided by email in April 2026. Actions concerning the IUCLID URL and EU Login issues when accessing EFSA Agency IUCLID had also been addressed.

One action remained in progress concerning the documents required upon declaration of admissibility and the alignment of information contained in the template email with the updated administrative guidance.

EFSA also provided a reminder on the appointment of PSN-IUCLID participants, alternates, observers and ad-hoc participants and on the relevant communication channels for nominations or changes in representation.

4. IUCLID Latest news and & updates

EFSA provided an overview of recent IUCLID activities, including the continued virtual tour with national authorities and the availability of training material through EU Academy and the Applicants' Toolkit. EFSA proposed complementing the PSN-IUCLID Teams channel with links to relevant training and reference material to facilitate access, particularly for new colleagues. EFSA informed participants that the IUCLID 6.10 manuals were planned for publication in mid-November, covering active substances, MRLs and safeners & synergists, while a short manual addressing changes for microorganisms was planned by the end of 2026. Looking ahead, EFSA explained that it is considering moving away from detailed field-by-field instructions, with duplication of the IUCLID help text, towards more focused PPP-specific guidance.

EFSA reminded applicants to select the relevant dossier-header checkbox where a proposal for Annex IV inclusion applies. EFSA also reported an increase in Business Rule 910 failures associated with light dossier exports for resubmissions. The issue may arise from attachment files automatically generated during migration between IUCLID versions. The light dossier remains the recommended approach for resubmissions; however, where BR910 occurs, applicants were advised to attempt submission of the full dossier. If this also fails, the issue should be reported to EFSA.

Regarding confidentiality and dossier filtering, EFSA informed participants of an upcoming change to the filtering rule applicable to the reference substance flag within

the substance document. EFSA also reiterated its recommendation not to use confidentiality flags at reference substance level, as this will bypass dedicated filtering rules, propagate throughout the dossier and add unnecessary complexity to confidentiality request assessment. Dedicated flags within the relevant IUCLID documents should instead be used.

EFSA described an issue concerning publication of toxicological and ecotoxicological information on non-relevant impurities in dossiers submitted without Document J. Under the current configuration, relevant information may be removed from the filtered dossier together with the impurity identity. Pending a technical solution, applicants may be requested during confidentiality assessment to prepare an appropriately sanitised extract of the Confidential Information Report containing the relevant information. EFSA acknowledged that this is an interim workaround and confirmed that a more appropriate technical solution will be explored.

EFSA presented updates to Validation Assistant rules planned with the upcoming service release, including new PPP rules and the first set of rules for safeners and synergists. EFSA also explained that the previously introduced relaxed Validation Assistant configuration for MRL applications concerning minor uses would be rolled back pending a final position from the Commission.

Q&A

CLE asked for further clarification on the BR910 failures. EFSA explained that the problem can result from migration-generated attachment files being different between the applicant's IUCLID instance and EFSA Agency IUCLID. EFSA confirmed that in the cases encountered so far switching from a light dossier to a full dossier submission successfully addressed the problem.

CLE also raised concerns about additional time required for implementing the temporary approach for tox/ecotox information on non-relevant impurities considering that requests for dossier updates as part of the confidentiality request assessment process have to be implemented in a short timeframe. EFSA confirmed that the issue had only recently emerged and that a technically and legally sound solution is being sought. EFSA noted that the filtering working party could be reconvened if appropriate once a potential technical solution has been identified. Given that the impacted dossiers can be identified by the applicant upfront, EFSA suggested that the applicant prepares the attachment required by the temporary solution upfront, so as to save time at a later stage.

DE commented on the planned future restructuring of the manuals and stressed the usefulness of searchable field-level instructions for evaluators. EFSA clarified that PPP-specific instructions not available in IUCLID help text would be retained and referred to existing IUCLID information packages and crosswalk documents as additional resources. EFSA agreed to consider including references to these resources in the manuals.

DE also asked why the relaxed validation configuration for minor uses was being reversed. EFSA explained that less complete applications had been received following introduction of the relaxed configuration, triggering questions from Member States and further discussion with the Commission. The previous validation checks were therefore reinstated pending a final decision

AT asked how the temporary approach for tox/ecotox information on non-relevant impurities would apply to new active substances for which the RMS performs the confidentiality assessment. EFSA confirmed that the RMS would need to identify the issue and request the necessary information from the applicant and that EFSA would provide support where needed.

CLE asked, with reference to the temporary solution on publication of certain tox/ecotox data, whether there were limitations on what EFSA could ask applicants to redo on existing dossiers. EFSA reiterated that only a limited number of recently submitted dossiers is impacted by this request and that it is required for compliance with the provisions on proactive disclosure of the Transparency Regulation.

Actions

- **EFSA** to consider adding links to key training/reference material to the PSN-IUCLID Teams channel.
- **EFSA** to correct/update presentation material before publication, including the revised service-release information.
- **EFSA** to consider referencing useful IUCLID help-text list /crosswalk resources in the future manuals.

5. Updates on format changes

EFSA presented the format changes proposed for the 2027 IUCLID release. Twelve change requests have been prioritised for the ongoing OECD consultation. Proposed changes covered several health-effects OHTs, including additions to improve reporting of pathogenicity, infectivity and microorganism clearance; developmental toxicity; physical-chemical properties; and biodegradation in soil.

Changes were also proposed at CORE/DOMAIN level, including additional structured information on contaminating microorganisms in the Substance composition document, development of genomic-characterisation information and a new document addressing the impact of water-treatment processes on active substances and metabolites in drinking water.

EFSA reported that the proposal to introduce a dedicated vertebrate-study field has been deprioritised to allow further analysis of a more reliable solution, potentially based on automatically retrieving this information from existing OHT fields.

For EU PPP-specific formats, EFSA summarised proposals concerning dossier headers, impurity and metabolite summaries, ecotoxicological risk assessment, storage stability of residues and terrestrial/freshwater exposure documents. The consultation on these changes closed on 23 October 2026 and EFSA was reviewing the feedback received.

EFSA also presented indicative priorities for the 2028 format release, including a new OHT for kinetic evaluations in environmental fate assessment, possible development of an OHT for in-vitro DNT batteries, further work on microorganism formats, OHT 67 and metabolism/residue formats. EFSA announced its intention to establish an OECD ad-hoc expert group to develop the environmental fate kinetic-evaluation template, subject to approval by the OECD Working Party on Hazard Assessment.

Q&A

DE asked about the location of metabolite and impurity information within the IUCLID working context. EFSA explained that their current placement within the product dataset results from technical limitations in IUCLID.

CLE recalled the need to revise the analytical-method OHT for residues, also in light of developments in the relevant guidance. EFSA took note and indicated that a dedicated PSN-IUCLID working group could be considered to support work on the template.

Action

- **EFSA** to follow up on the possible revision of OHT 87, including consideration of a dedicated working group.

6. Update on IUCLID Report generator

EFSA provided an update on reports that will be available in the next IUCLID minor release (November 2026). An initial set of changes to existing reports was presented, derived from the outcome of a survey conducted to clarify open points from the 15th PSN IUCLID subgroup meeting. Main changes consisted of: i) "2-List of References": separation of references by active substance and representative product(s), aligning the chemical and microbial reports; ii) Standalone lists of references: creation of two different versions in DOCX, sorted by author ("List of Literature References") and by section ("List of Literature References (By Section)", and sorting of the CSV version by section by default; iii) "List of Substances and Metabolites": addition of active substances and relevant impurities from the corresponding relevant documents; iv) "MRL Report": relocation of the residue definition section, removal of Annexes and deletion of columns "Data protection(Y/N)" and "Justification if data protection is claimed" from the references list at the end of the report.

EFSA also presented other changes to additional reports: i) Microorganisms reports for PhysChem (product) and Fate (active substance and product): alignment with the official EC template; and ii) "Metabolite overview table": changes reflecting the 2026 format changes (IUCLID 6.10) in the FLEXIBLE_SUMMARY.Metabolites document.

In addition, a new "Bee extractor" CSV report was introduced, which summarises key data on toxicity to bees from OHT 50-3 in support of risk-assessment activities.

Next, a high-level summary of ongoing and future work was presented. EFSA also stressed that future DOCX migration may improve some aspects of formatting but the same level of formatting as in manually created reports will never be achieved. It was also reiterated that the quality of generated reports depends heavily on how information is entered in IUCLID, with rich text and images only being reproducible as provided. It was also clarified that compatibility of reports across IUCLID versions cannot be guaranteed.

Finally, EFSA informed participants that new versions of reports, including mapping files, will continue to be published on Zenodo (please refer to EFSA toolkit page) , and reiterated the importance of such files in helping to understand the expected contents of the different reports.

Q&A

EACL noted that some references linked to predicted environmental concentrations do not appear in the List of References reports because they are not represented as LITERATURE entities in IUCLID. EFSA acknowledged that addressing this would require a format change and agreed to follow it up. EACL also asked about the availability of the report on efficacy for chemical pesticides. EFSA checked the issue during the meeting and confirmed that data on efficacy is available as part of the report "3 - Product B-3 (Application)" and explained that the title could be amended.

DE (BfR) asked whether generated reports need to be manually reformatted before submission or whether EFSA would accept the format as it is now. EFSA explained that minor formatting issues encountered so far have not prevented them from using or assessing such reports, particularly in the MRL domain. EFSA also stressed the importance of ensuring the quality and completeness of the dossier before generating the report, including, where needed, exchanges between the MS and the applicant to complete or clean up the dossier. EFSA nevertheless reiterated that report quality will continue to be improved and encouraged MSs to submit requests for improvements when issues with the reports are identified.

AT asked how comments and proposals for improvements should be submitted. EFSA confirmed that feedback is welcome and subsequently clarified that requests should be channelled through Ask EFSA so that they can be handled internally. For proposing format changes, requests shall be submitted to ECHA through the dedicated form.

Requests concerning the IUCLID report generator shall be submitted through Ask a question/Questions about application procedures, available at the following link: https://connect.efsa.europa.eu/RM/s/help/scientificapplicationquestion .

AT also asked whether the templates currently generated for active substance assessments are accepted by EFSA where they differ from older assessment-report formats. EFSA explained that the reports had been developed with peer-review colleagues and confirmed that colleagues responsible for completeness checks are aware of the templates currently available through the Report Generator.

Actions

- **EFSA** to follow up on the treatment of PEC-related documentation in Lists of References.
- **EFSA** to change name of the efficacy report for chemical pesticides.

7. Updates from working parties

EFSA presented an overview of PSN-IUCLID working parties. Completed work included activities on microorganism PhysChem, OHT 85-5/85-9 and the Confidential Information Report. The filtering rules working party was described as dormant but available for reactivation on an ad-hoc basis.

The metabolism studies working party remained active. Its work focuses on revising OHTs for metabolism in livestock and crops and basic toxicokinetics, with the objective of improving compatibility with MetaPath, data control and user-

friendliness and reducing nested structures. OHT 85-3 is expected to be available as a pilot before the approach is extended to the other metabolism templates.

The working party agreed to add a dosing-solution block. For extraction efficiency, it agreed that the OHT should report measured extraction information, while conclusions on extraction efficiency should be handled separately in a dedicated flexible record. Work is also ongoing on consolidation of the commodities picklist.

8. Feedback from Industry Representatives

IBMA

IBMA presented feedback concerning microorganism dossiers, including formatting limitations, report generation, confidential information, missing units of measurement, biological-properties documents and readability of filtered dossiers. IBMA also raised concerns regarding requests to applicants to prepare or complement assessment-report documentation and differences in admissibility practices.

Q&A

A discussion followed on responsibilities for preparing DAR/RAR/evaluation reports. EFSA acknowledged the difficulties reported by applicants but clarified that use of IUCLID does not alter the respective regulatory responsibilities of applicants and evaluating authorities and confirmed commitment to continue improving the quality of the reports. CLE proposes to add: According to the Regulation 1107/2009 and 396/2005 it is the responsibility of the applicant to provide a complete Dossier for evaluation according to established guidelines at the point of submission. The task to compile Evaluation reports such as DAR/RAR or MRL Evaluation reports is in the responsibility of the RMS or EMS, respectively.

The European Commission reminded participants that in line with the Regulations in force the DAR must be prepared by the RMS and submitted to EFSA.

Industry representatives stressed the duplication of effort associated with submitting the IUCLID dossier and preparing additional assessment-report material as requested by many Member States.

EFSA considered the suggestion to structure future IUCLID manuals more closely around data requirements rather than around the IUCLID structure to be useful and agreed to take it into account.

CropLife Europe

CLE highlighted differences in how IUCLID is used by Member States during admissibility checks and evaluation, particularly concerning Notification of Studies, cross-references and dossier/report versioning. CLE reiterated concerns about requests for applicants to check, complement or prepare assessment reports after submission and stressed difficulties arising where reports are generated using a later IUCLID version than the one used to prepare the dossier.

EFSA reiterated that the PSN-IUCLID provides a forum for technical exchange and recalled that Member States can also use the dedicated Teams channel and Ask a Question. EFSA referred to the published mappings between IUCLID fields and reports and stated that possible improvements to Report Generator instructions would be considered.

CLE also raised the issue of the possible availability of report generation on the public IUCLID instance as announced by ECHA during the OECD meeting of the Expert Group on IUCLID and Data Reporting Standards. EFSA stated that no official EFSA position had yet been taken and that the matter would be discussed internally.

Post-meeting note: The matter was discussed with ECHA, who confirmed that this item has been deprioritised for next year's release.

Actions

- **EFSA** to consider improvements to Report Generator instructions in the IUCLID manuals.

EACL

EACL raised questions concerning completion of OHT 85-5 study summaries, including crop history, GPS coordinates, environmental conditions, control plots and potentially duplicated fields. EFSA explained that the revised format is intended to support structured reuse of study information and both CSV and narrative reports. Free-text/additional-comment fields do not need to be populated if there is nothing relevant to report. Similarly, the detailed reporting of control samples results is not mandatory, unless these data are relevant for the risk assessment. All other fields present in the OHT 85-5 are expected to be populated for good dossier completeness and possible reuse of the data. EFSA also clarified that there are no issues related to confidentiality of data in IUCLID as long as applicants fill in the data in line with the applicable filtering rules.

EACL also flagged challenges in managing data segregation for dossiers belonging to a task force. EFSA replied that joint submissions and individual member dossiers (or the use of inherited templates) are the recommended approach for segregating information and invited stakeholders with specific problematic configurations to contact EFSA.

Regarding One Substance, One Assessment, EFSA referred to ongoing OECD work on harmonisation of IUCLID data across regulatory frameworks and indicated that a report 'Comparison of information requirements and validation rules under REACH, BPR and PPP: the assessment of dicopper oxide as case study' was issued by the OECD Expert Group on IUCLID and Data Reporting Standards and circulated to its members.. The content of this report was presented during the 13th IUCLID PSN meeting and is summarised and available at the following link here.

9. Feedback from Member States Representatives

DE presented issues observed with reports generated by IUCLID, including table formatting, characters, equations, lengthy tables and information not appearing in

the expected location. Difficulties in identifying changes between successive dossier versions were also highlighted.

Q&A

EFSA stressed that issues originating from the underlying IUCLID dossier should be distinguished from issues introduced by the Report Generator. Specific examples should be submitted to allow problems to be reproduced and, where relevant, corrected.

DE suggested automatically highlighting dossier changes in generated reports. EFSA explained that the Report Generator currently processes one dossier version at a time and therefore does not provide such comparison functionality. ECHA invited DE to submit specific issues with the IUCLID Compare tool through the helpdesk, including examples and supporting material.

FR proposed creating a working party concerning Volume 3 reports, and AT supported the proposal. CLE suggested that any such activity should also address issues related to the overall process. EFSA agreed to consider internally the proposal for creating a working party on Volume 3.

Actions

- **EFSA** to consider internally possible further working party activities concerning Volume 3 reports.

10. Any other business

No Aob

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11. Welcome back and Apologies for absence

The chair welcomed back the participants.

12. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes

13. Updates on PPP dashboard

EFSA presented developments to the IUCLID PPP data-reuse dashboard on metabolites following the testing phase started after the 15th IUCLID PSN meeting which involved 11 users from 4 Competent Authorities. Feedback collected during this period was reviewed and incorporated into the published dashboard version in September 2026. EFSA clarified the distinction between the testing and production environments, noting that both use the same underlying EFSA Agency IUCLID data

while temporary differences may occur when new enhancements/features are being released and tested and not yet available in the production version.

For metabolites identity dashboard page, improvements included a clearer presentation of InChI/InChIKey information, addition of submitting legal entity and dossier-submission date information, and a revised drill-through section including identity information for microbial active substances. For metabolites studies dashboard page, study dates, additional metabolites identifiers and a new drill-through section containing study-reference data were introduced. Export functionality including full content of exported fields, filtering capacity and dynamic row numbering of tables were also improved.

EFSA recalled how Member State users may request dashboard access and applicable prerequisites. Other potential dashboards reusing IUCLID PPP data were also mentioned focusing on active-substance studies, impurity studies and representative products. These dashboards will be prioritized and implemented in the same PowerBI solution in the future.

No questions were raised.

14. Updates on OECD QSAR toolbox

EFSA presented a workflow developed in the OECD QSAR Toolbox in the context of new assessment methodologies for pesticide residues. The workflow supports implementation of the revised OECD approach for residue definitions by integrating metabolism information, available toxicity data and in-silico approaches.

The first deliverable addresses bacterial gene mutation and covers categorisation and toxicological evaluation. MetaPath information can be used to identify and characterise residues, while IUCLID can provide relevant experimental toxicity information. The workflow subsequently integrates experimental evidence, read-across and QSAR predictions. EFSA emphasised that expert review remains necessary.

A follow-up project will address chromosomal damage and reporting functionality. EFSA announced its intention to establish a working party to test the bacterial gene mutation workflow, involving interested industry representatives and Member State experts in toxicology and residues.

Q&A

CLE asked whether data already prepared during the first project could be reused for the follow-up work. EFSA considered continued use of the existing material the most practical option, while noting that the needs of the follow-up project would need to be considered. Denmark explained that potential participation would need to be discussed internally with the relevant experts.

Action

- **EFSA** to launch a call for volunteers for the working party testing the bacterial gene mutation workflow.

15. Updates on databases migration to IUCLID

EFSA presented the work on migrating three EFSA's databases to IUCLID formats: OpenFoodTox, the Pesticides Genotoxicity and the Processing Factors databases.

For **OpenFoodTox**, EFSA described the migration and mapping of hazard data from EFSA scientific outputs into IUCLID 6/OECD harmonised formats to facilitate interoperability and data reuse. The database can be accessed through different outputs, including downloadable data and interactive dashboards.

For the **pesticides genotoxicity database**, EFSA described work to map the existing database to IUCLID and extend it with additional active-substance, metabolite and genotoxicity information.

For the **processing factors database**, EFSA presented the migration of the existing flat-table database to structured IUCLID/OECD formats and the development of links between endpoint summaries, individual processing factors and the underlying studies. EFSA stressed the longer-term objective of reusing structured information throughout the regulatory process rather than re-extracting it from PDF documents.

Q&A

CLE asked whether the existing Excel output of the processing factors database would remain available. EFSA confirmed that an Excel flat file can be generated back from the structured database and that maintaining this output for end users was included in the project.

DE/UBA asked about environmental fate and behaviour information in OpenFoodTox and reported difficulty finding specific values in the downloadable information. EFSA agreed to check the issue and provide clarification.

EFSA also informed participants that a new call for tender for maintenance of OpenFoodTox had been published.

Action

- **EFSA** to follow up with DE/UBA concerning environmental fate and behaviour information in OpenFoodTox and share the clarification with the wider group if relevant

16. Any other business

No additional business was raised.

EFSA informed participants that the next PSN-IUCLID meeting would be held in 2027 and that a physical meeting was envisaged, tentatively in April. The precise dates had not yet been established and would be identified through a poll.