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For Immediate Release

Sumitomo Chemical expresses concern about the recent EU Regulation Restricting Neonicotinoids Use

The EU Commission published the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 485/2013 on 25th May¹, which contains restriction on the use of clothianidin on certain bee attractive crops in the EU region. The restriction will apply from 1st December 2013 at the latest, and will be reviewed within two years thereafter.

The EU Commission has put forward the regulation even though EU Member States failed to reach a qualified majority to approve of the Commission's proposals in any of the three consecutive voting at Standing Committee and Appeal Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health. The Commission's decision relied on the review by the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA), which, setting aside and ignoring many oppositional scientific studies, is inconclusive on alleged causal relationship between the use of neonicotinoid insecticides, including clothianidin, and bees health decline. Nonetheless, the EU Commission took such a disproportionate measure by excessive application of the precautionary principle without regard to its heavily negative impact on agricultural industries in EU and despite the fact that constructive efforts for tackling real causes of bee health decline have been underway and various measures for product stewardship has been taken.

Though the EU Commission's decision is disappointing, it will by no means affect the use of clothianidin supplied by Sumitomo Chemical in non-prohibited fields in the EU region or for any field outside the EU region. Sumitomo Chemical remains fully confident that its products containing clothianidin can be used safely without any substantial risk to the environment, including bee health, as long as they are used properly according to the product label instructions. As a Research & Development oriented company, Sumitomo Chemical is firmly committed to contributing to the promotion of global food production by supplying high-quality plant protection products based on the highly advanced technology and state-of-the-art science. The Company also affirms that it will continue to pursue its diligent efforts for bee health care and invest in stewardship measures and solution to protect pollinators.

1: Official Journal of the European Union, L 139/12-26, 25.5.2013