

Why change the existing input evaluation system, and how?

Introduction

- Bernhard Speiser

ORGANIC INPUTS EVALUATION project

- **Concerted Action**
- **Duration: January 2003 – December 2005**
- **12 partners and many external experts**

Objectives

- **«Policy support» for improvement of organic farming legislation.**
- **To develop harmonized and standardised procedures for evaluation of plant protection products, fertilizers and soil conditioners for use in organic agriculture.**

A few terms explained ...

- **PPP** **Plant protection product(s)**

- **F&SC** **Fertilizer(s) and soil conditioner(s) ***
 * **also called «soil improvers»**

- **inputs** **= PPP + F&SC**

- **OF** **Organic farming**

- **product** **«item» listed on Annex II of Reg. 2092/91;**
 do not confound with «commercial product»

Relevant aspects of Regulation 2092/91

Article 1-16

Art. 6

only products from Annex II may be used

Art. 7

Rules for changing Annex II

Annex I-VIII

Annex II A

Allowed fertilizers and soil conditioners

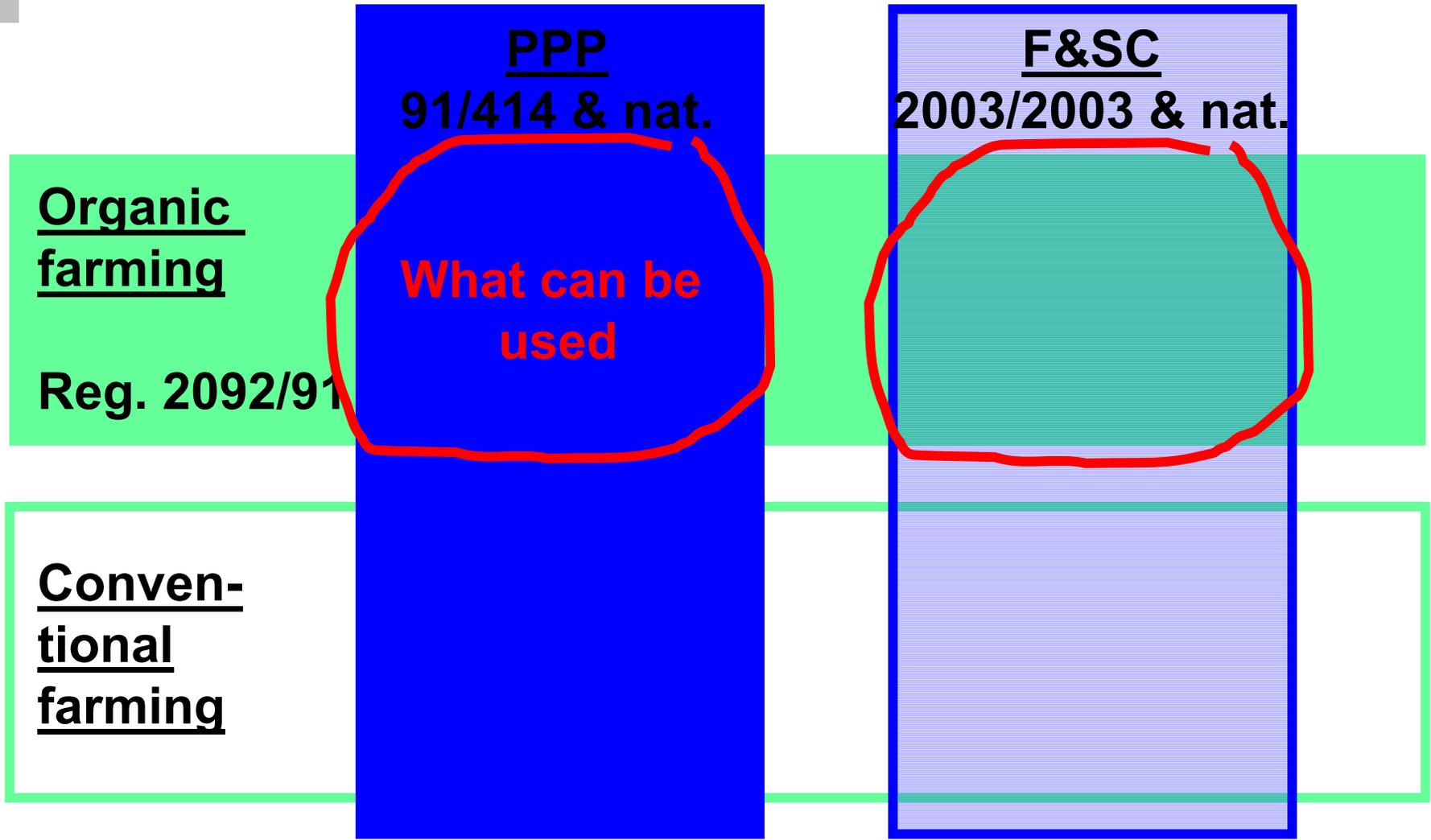
Annex II B

Allowed plant protection products

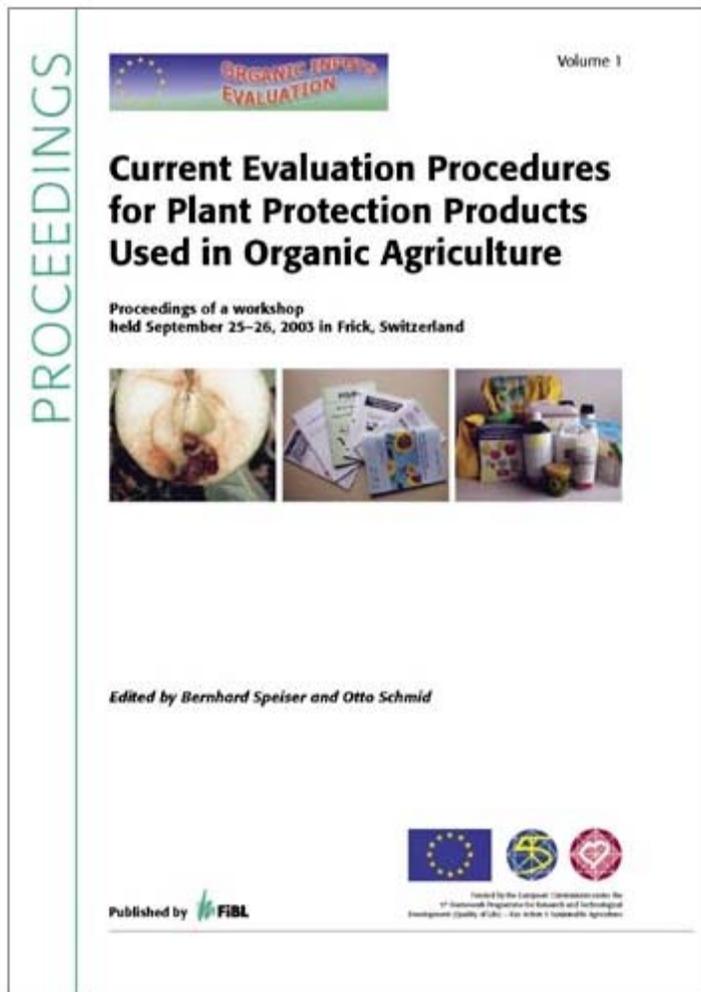
Annex II F

«Other products» (empty)

Overlap with other legislation



Inventory of the existing system



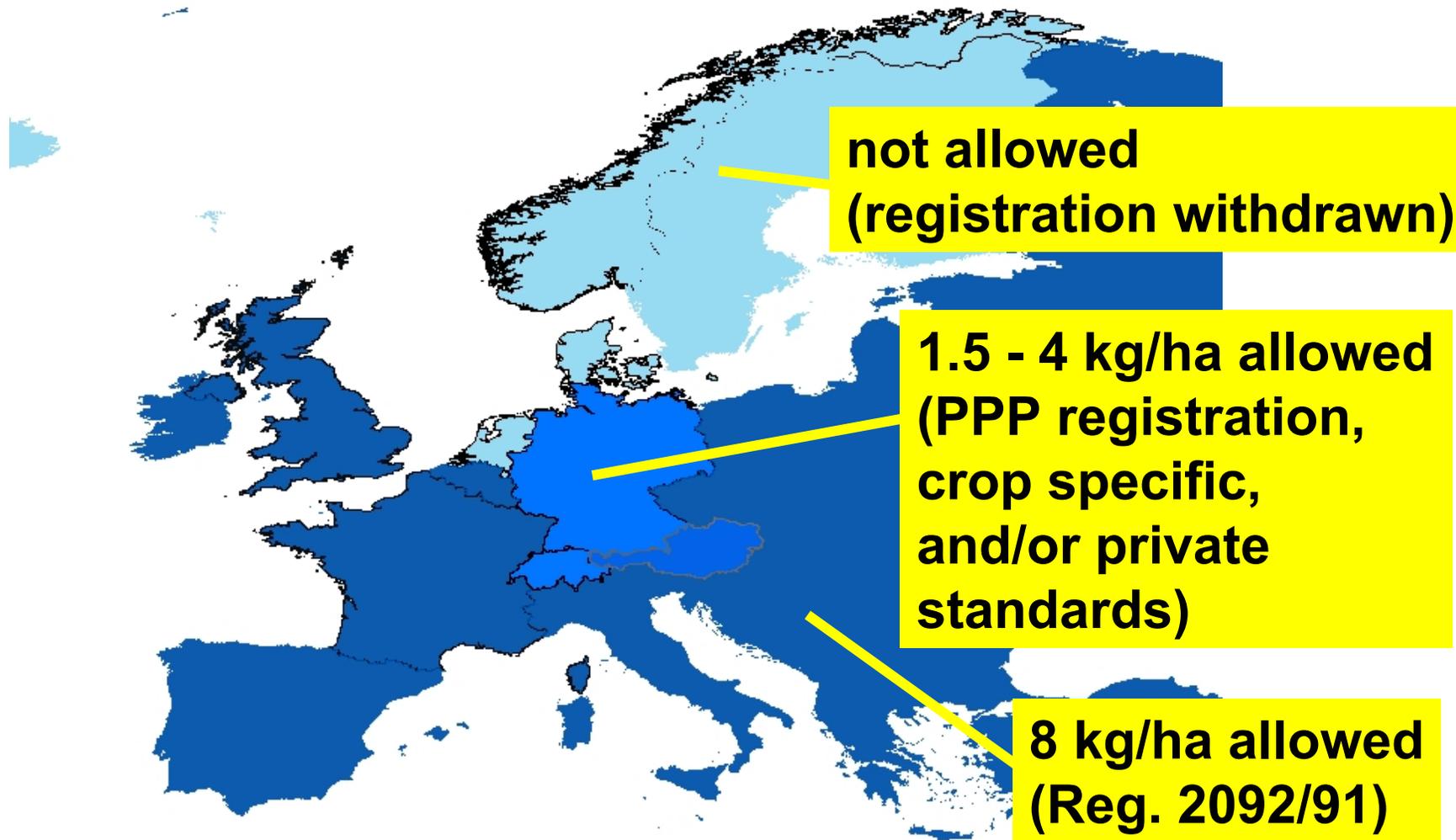
- «Current Evaluation Procedures for **Plant Protection Products** Used in Organic Agriculture»
- «Current Evaluation Procedures for **Fertilizers and Soil Conditioners** Used in Organic Agriculture»
- Download:
www.organicinputs.org

Main findings of inventory

- **Large variability** between EU Member States concerning what is allowed and what is not allowed for use. Main reasons for this are found **in the general legislation (outside organic agriculture)**, e.g. pesticide registration, fertilizer admission, rules for input traders.
- **Simplified registration procedures** may help to overcome problems with registration at national level, but are themselves highly variable.
- Inclusion of new products is very slow, or in most cases impossible.

For examples see presentation by Marc Trapman

Example of variability: copper fungicides



Examples of simplified procedures

Most countries have **no** simplified procedures.

NL: «RUB»

low-risk

IT: Presidential Decree 290*

traditional OF products

PT: Decree no 1232/2001*

only for OF; no fees

DE: «plant strengtheners»

DE: «farm-made products»

mode of action

CH: partial efficacy

traditional products

*aimed at organic farming

efficacy requirements

Main needs for improvement (1)

More comprehensive evaluation criteria. Harmonization with Codex Alimentarius and other standards.

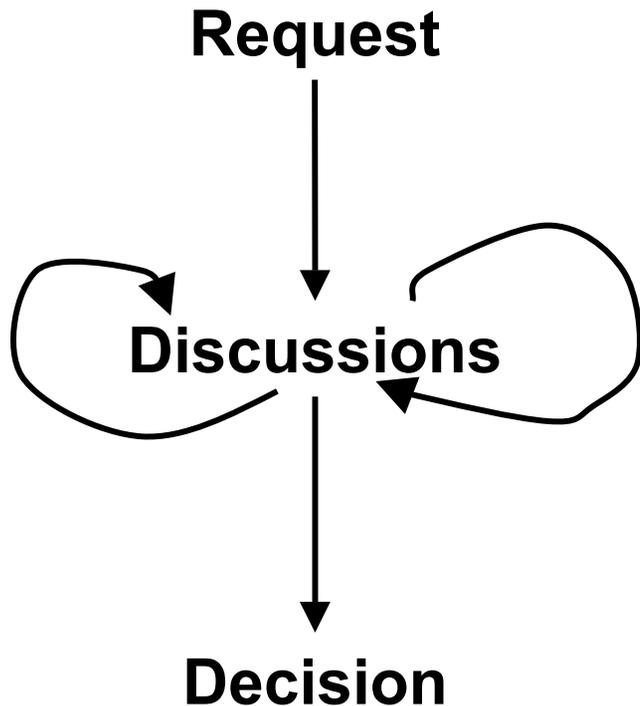
<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Present Art. 7</u>	<u>proposed</u>
Non-contact (for PPP)	yes	no
Traditional use	yes	no
Necessity	yes	yes
Environment	yes	yes
Origin	no	yes
Manufacture	no	yes
Human health	no	yes
Socio-economic impact	no	yes
Organic farming principles	no	yes

See presentation by Cristina Micheloni

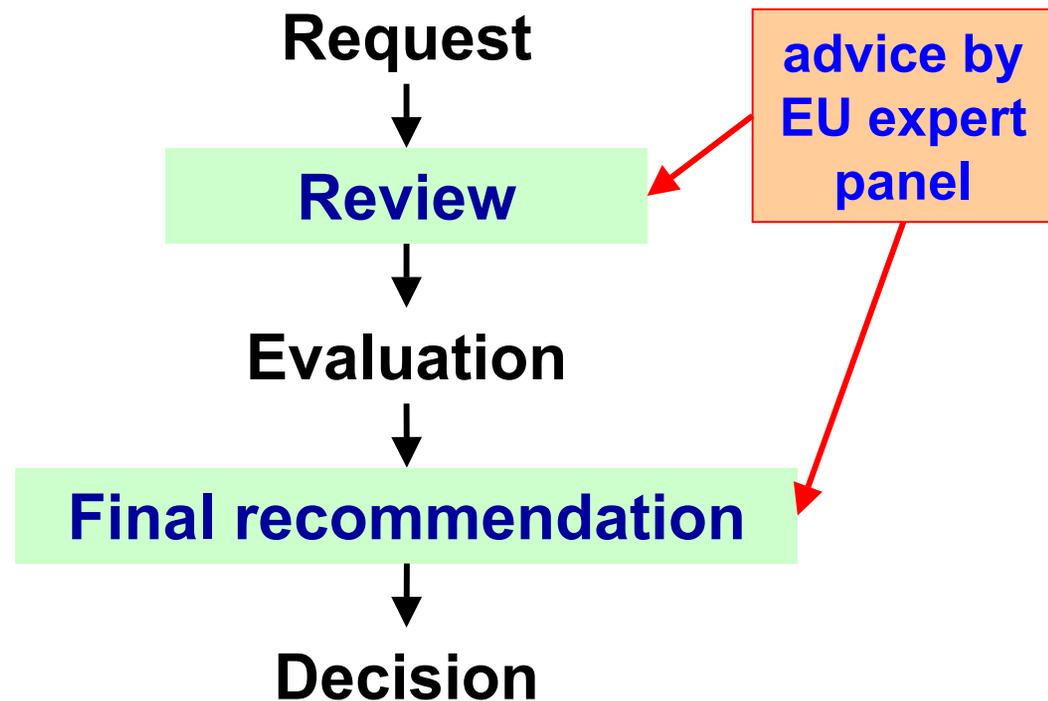
Main needs for improvement (2)

Procedures which allow efficient and transparent handling of requests.

present



proposed



See presentation by Francis Blake

Main needs for improvement (3)

A criteria matrix for technical support (puts the criteria into practice).

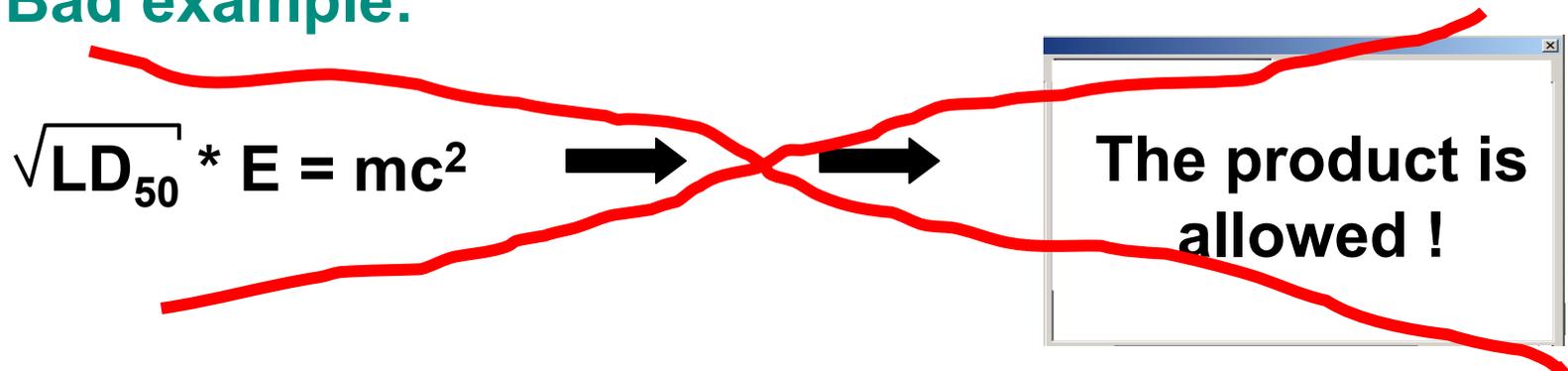
Article 7 → **Applicant: How to prepare a request ?**
→ **Evaluator: How to evaluate a request ?**

See presentation by Christopher Stopes

Role of the criteria matrix

- The criteria matrix **provides support** for those who evaluate inputs,
- but the matrix does **not decide itself** whether an input is allowed or not.

Bad example:



Use of the criteria matrix

To illustrate the use of the matrix, two case studies were carried out:

- Hydrolyzed animal proteins (N fertilizer)
- Spinosad (insecticide)

See presentations by Chris Koopmans and Bernhard Kromp

Summary of our proposal

Possible implementation

- **Better evaluation criteria** during revision of Reg. 2092/91
- **Better procedures, advice by expert panel** during revision of Reg. 2092/91, as per Organic Action Plan, Action 11*
- **Criteria matrix for technical support** as a guidance document

* «Establishing an independent expert panel for technical advice.»

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- **Project partners and external experts**

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