

EU policies on Plant Protection Products and implications for the railway sector

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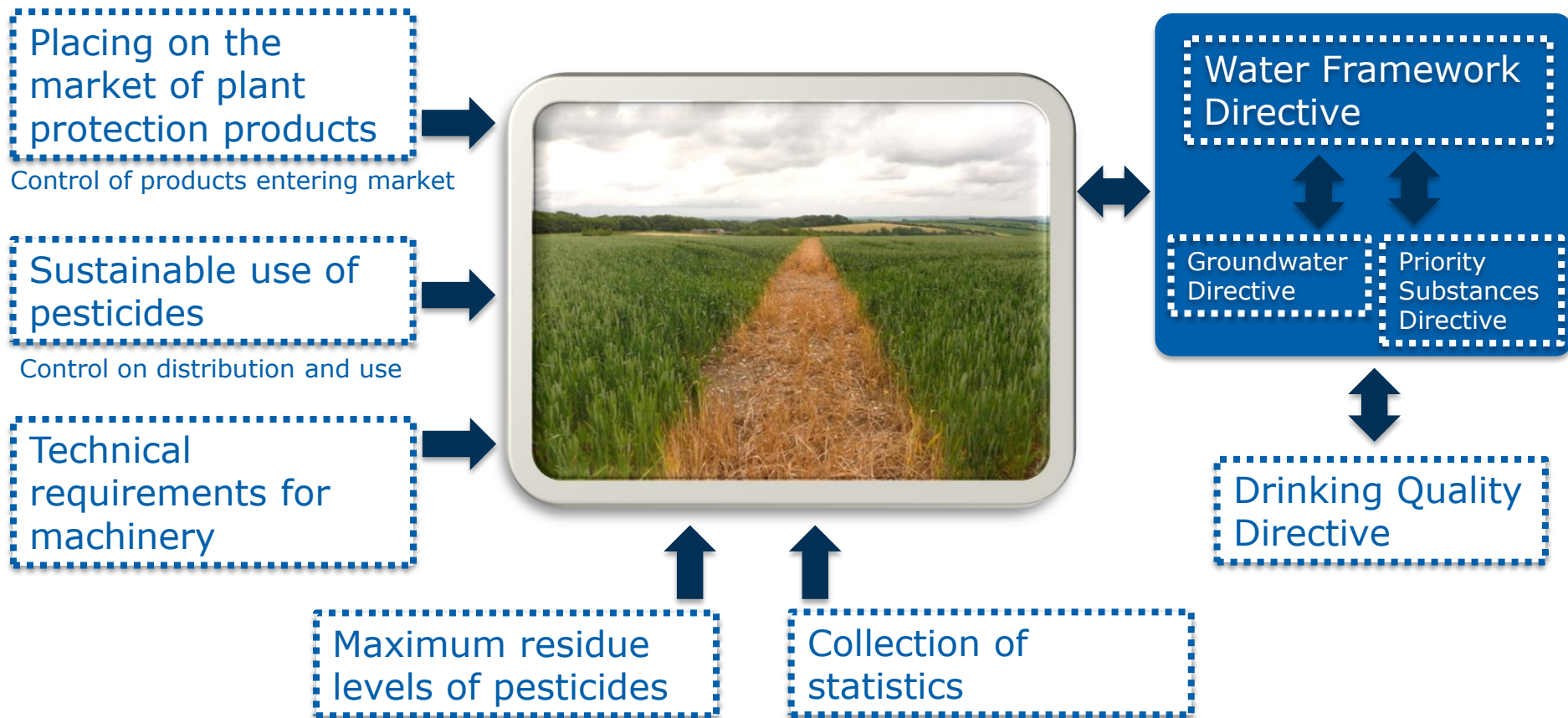
EU Regulatory framework

Since 2009 the EU has a comprehensive legal framework for achieving a more sustainable use of plant protection products by reducing the risks and impacts of their use on human health and the environment

Sustainable use of plant protection products (pesticides)

- Protecting plants and plant products against harmful organisms, including weeds
- Improving agriculture production
- 2009 legislative framework is composed of 2 Directives and 2 Regulations

EU Regulatory framework impacting herbicides

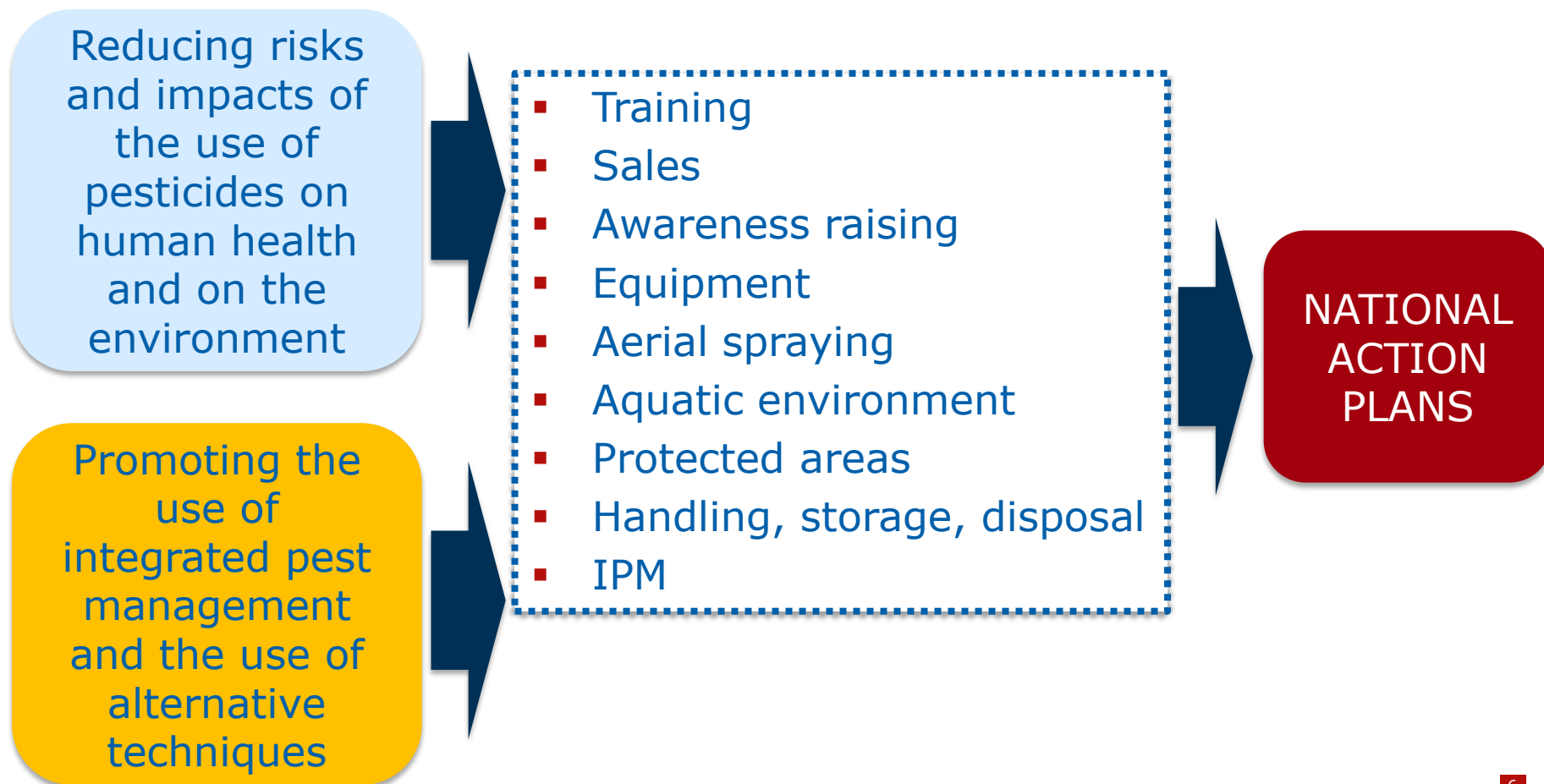


Regulation 1107/2009 marketing plant protection products

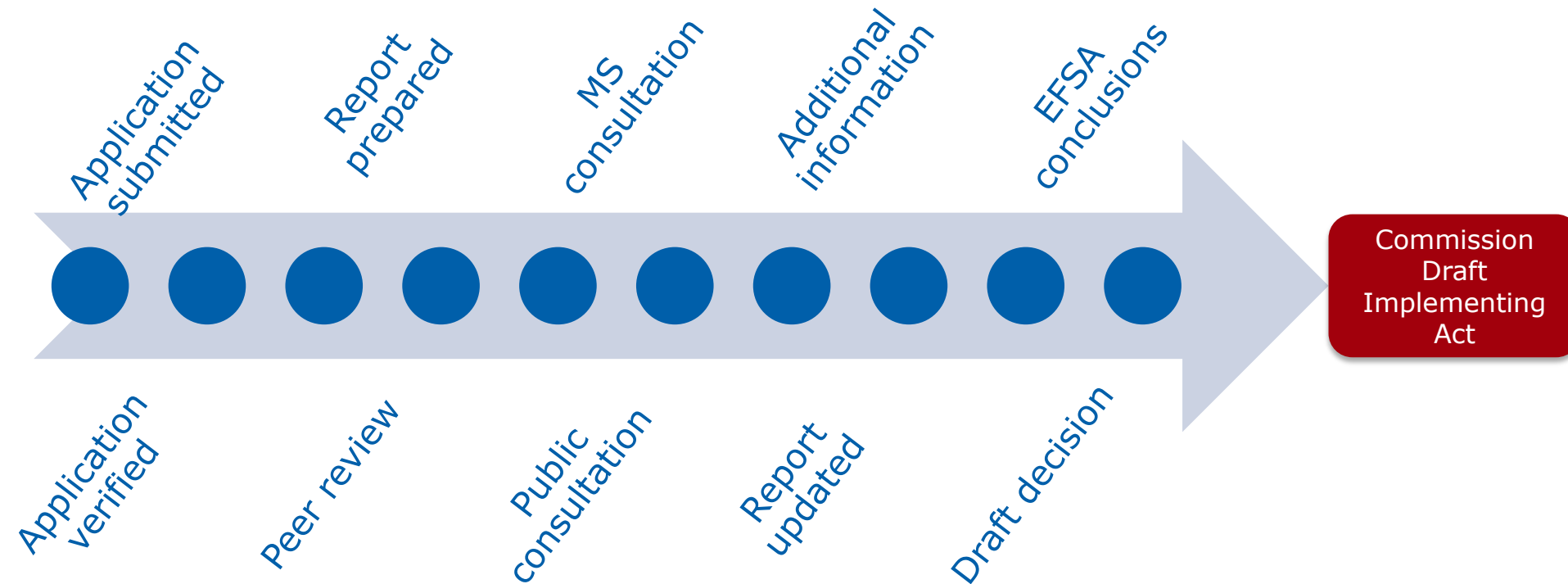
- Stricter approval criteria
- Shared responsibility
 - EU level: approval of active substances
 - MS+zonal: products
- Incentives for low-risk, basic substances, minor users
- Proper use: sustainable use and integrated pest management

Directive 2009/128/EC

Sustainable use of pesticides

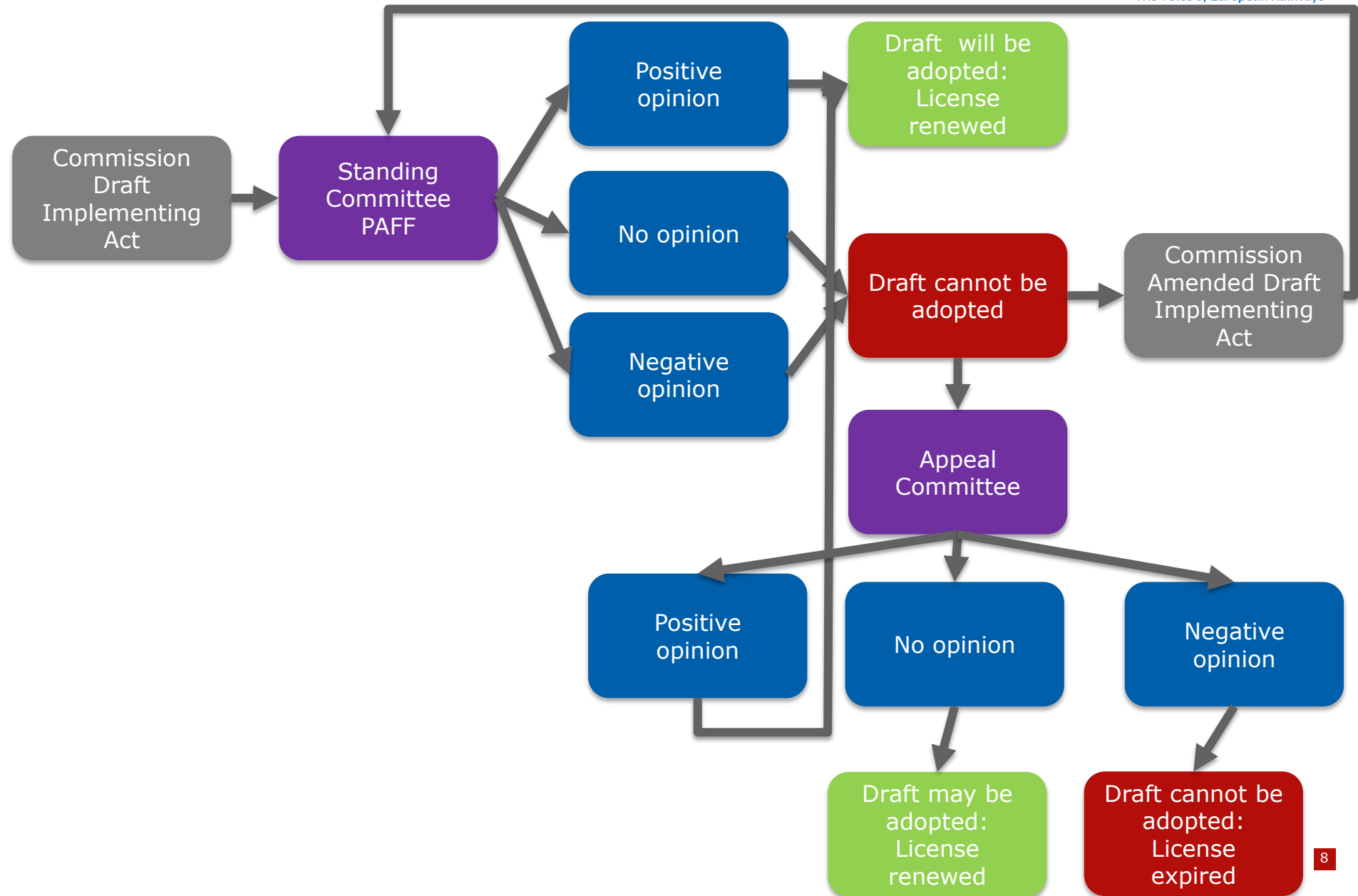


Keys steps in active substance renewal



- Articles 7 to 13 of Regulation (EC) 1107/2009
- Regulation (EU) 1141/2010 and Regulation (EU) 844/2012
- Process normally takes at least 26 months

The approval process



Expiry date: 30 June 2016

- March 2016: proposal to renew until 2031
- May 2016: revised proposal to renew until 2025
- MS will still assess or re-assess the safety of pesticides containing glyphosate sold in their territory

No decision
19 May

2 **Railway position**

Controlled and responsible usage of herbicides in the railway sector under full application of the existing legal framework and control of competent authorities for environmental protection

Herbicides use to keep railway track area plant free

- Ensure stability of the ballast bed;
- Keep free view on signals;
- Prevent fire due to dry weed;
- Ensure ability to inspection;
- Ensure safety at track maintenance;
- Ensure visibility of train drivers;
- Ensure functioning of train detection track circuits
- Guarantee a safe start and brake of trains

Vegetation control methods no viable alternative to herbicides

- Thermal methods
 - Slow speed
 - Fire risks
 - Carbon-intensive
- Mechanical techniques
 - Slow speed
 - Not efficient
- Manual methods
 - Dangerous operation

A responsible approach to the use of herbicides

- Use herbicides only where they are necessary and aim for minimized use
- Weed control strategies
- Automated weed detection
- Analysis of weed occurrence
- Protect workers and the public

- Full prohibition of any kind of usage of herbicides along any kind of railway infrastructure is not feasible
- Uncontrolled weed will lead to
 - Potential railway traffic safety issues
 - Reduction of life expectancy of rail infrastructure
- Call for a controlled and responsible usage of glyphosate in the railway sector

Conclusions

- Glyphosate is widely used in the agricultural sector
- Rail represents less than 0.5% of the EU market of glyphosate
- Railways depend on glyphosate in their weed management
- If there is a ban at the EU level, exemption for the railway sector is required

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