



European
Landowners'
Organization

ELO welcomes EU Food and Feed Safety Simplification Omnibus as a strong alignment with farmers' priorities

Brussels, 16 December 2025 – The European Landowners' Organization (ELO) welcomes the publication of the European Commission's Food and Feed Safety Simplification Omnibus, which responds in several key areas to the priorities raised by ELO in its advocacy efforts. The proposal represents an important step towards making EU food and feed safety rules more workable, more predictable and better aligned with innovation on the ground, while fully preserving high standards of human, animal and environmental protection.

A future-proof definition of biocontrol

ELO particularly welcomes the introduction of a **future-proof EU definition of biocontrol substances**. The absence of a harmonised definition has long resulted in divergent interpretations across Member States, fragmented application of data requirements and unnecessary delays for products with comparable risk profiles. By establishing a legally robust and forward-looking definition, the Commission creates the basis for more consistent assessments, improved mutual recognition and smoother implementation.

Faster and more predictable access to innovation

ELO has consistently highlighted that lengthy and uncertain authorisation procedures are a major barrier to the uptake of biocontrol and other low-risk solutions. The omnibus directly addresses this concern by:

- enabling **provisional authorisations** for plant protection products containing biocontrol substances once a positive scientific assessment has been completed, and
- strengthening mutual recognition procedures, including enforceable timelines.

These measures reduce time-to-market without changing safety requirements, allowing farmers to access safe and effective tools when they are needed.

Smarter use of scientific and administrative capacity

ELO welcomes the possibility for the **EFSA to act as rapporteur** for biocontrol dossiers where Member State capacity is limited. This pragmatic option responds to a well-documented structural bottleneck in the system and contributes to more predictable timelines and robust scientific assessments, while maintaining the existing risk-assessment framework.

Stability and predictability through risk-based oversight

ELO also welcomes the move away from automatic, resource-intensive renewal cycles towards **approvals of unlimited duration**, combined with targeted reassessments and ad-hoc reviews when new scientific evidence emerges. This approach improves regulatory stability for farmers and innovators, while allowing authorities to focus their resources on substances and products where risks justify closer scrutiny. It removes administrative repetition that delivers little added safety value, without weakening the EU's ability to intervene when necessary.

Keeping Integrated Pest Management workable

By accelerating access to biocontrol and low-risk solutions and improving their availability across Member States, the omnibus supports **Integrated Pest Management as a practical, real-world approach**. Biocontrol solutions are recognised as an essential component of the toolbox, complementing conventional products rather than replacing them in isolation.

Precision agriculture and drone use

ELO also welcomes the attention given to **precision technologies, including drone use**, with the aim of reducing administrative barriers and moving towards more harmonised and proportionate authorisation procedures. These technologies have clear potential to reduce inputs, improve targeting and limit environmental impacts when applied under safe and well-defined conditions.

Jurgen Tack, Secretary General of ELO, said: *When biodiversity loss and climate change are outperforming policy development and regulation, an extension of the toolbox for farmers can significantly contribute to reaching environmental goals. This proposal shows that simplifying procedures and removing administrative dead ends can go hand in hand with high safety standards, and can help farmers deliver on sustainability, resilience and food security.*

ELO underlines that the success of the omnibus will ultimately depend on **consistent implementation across Member States and adequate resourcing of competent authorities and EFSA**. Simplification must translate into predictability and access on the ground.

ELO stands ready to continue working with the European Commission, the European Parliament and Member States to ensure that the final outcome delivers **effective simplification, faster access to innovation and tangible benefits for farmers, the environment and society**.

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About the European Landowners' Organization (ELO)

The European Landowners' Organization (ELO) is a leading voice representing the interests of landowners, rural entrepreneurs, and rural land managers in Europe. ELO promotes sustainable land management practices, fosters innovation, and advocates for the recognition of landowners' crucial role in shaping Europe's landscapes and rural areas.

