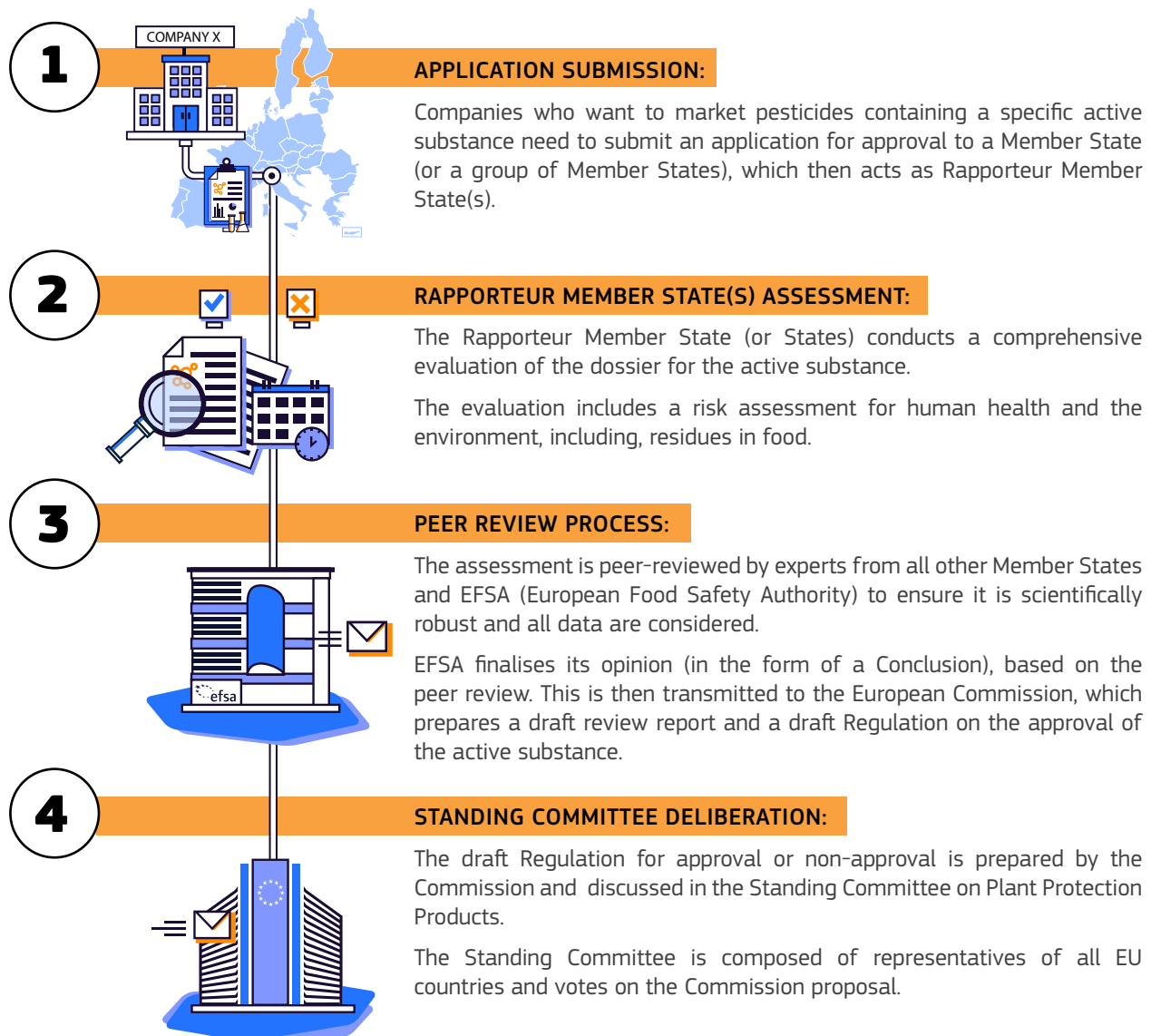


Approval of pesticides and herbicides in the EU: *How does it work ?*

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#EUGreenDeal

The approval of active substances (including for herbicides) in the European Union is a rigorous process aimed at ensuring the protection of plants against pests and diseases, as well as the safety of human health and the environment. The process involves a rigorous scientific assessment by experts from the Member States and European agencies, which forms the basis for a decision on whether the substance can be used in plant protection products. The **comitology procedure** is a key element in the final step of the decision-making process



IF A QUALIFIED MAJORITY* VOTES IN FAVOUR of the proposed implementing act

* A qualified majority consists of 55% of EU countries representing at least 65% of the total EU population



THE COMMISSION MUST ADOPT IT. A Regulation approving, or banning, the substance is published.

IF A QUALIFIED MAJORITY VOTES AGAINST THE PROPOSED ACT



THE COMMISSION MAY NOT ADOPT IT. It may return to the Committee with an amended proposal or send the rejected proposal to the Appeal Committee

IF THERE IS NO QUALIFIED MAJORITY EITHER FOR OR AGAINST THE PROPOSED ACT



THE COMMISSION MAY AMEND its proposal and return to the Committee or send it to the Appeal Committee



After the Committee delivers a positive opinion, or if the Appeal Committee delivers no opinion, the decision is adopted by the Commission. **A new active substance is usually approved for a maximum of 10 years** (if it is “low risk” it is approved for 15 years), while a renewed approval can be granted for up to 15 years. Approval with restrictions is also possible.



After the approval of an active substance, companies wishing to place products containing the active substance on the market must **seek authorisation in the Member States**, who must again assess the safety of each plant protection product for each use prior to granting an authorisation.

KEY CHARACTERISTICS



SCIENTIFIC RIGOUR

The process is underpinned by **robust scientific assessments** to determine the **safety and efficacy** of pesticides.



RISK-BASED APPROACH

Evaluations focus on **potential risks to human health, animal health, and the environment**.



TRANSPARENCY

Application dossiers, scientific assessments and proposals by the **Commission** are made public to **ensure transparency**.



PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Stakeholders, including industry, **NGOs**, and the public, may provide input during certain stages, in particular on the **draft assessment** report prepared by the **Rapporteur Member State**.



https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-making-process/adopting-eu-law/implementing-and-delegated-acts/comitology_en

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