



# FPC PRESS RELEASE

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## Food security still at risk from EU proposals

Long term food security remains at risk if the European Parliament continues on its course to introduce proposals to reduce growers' ability to fight common pests, weeds and diseases says the Fresh Produce Consortium.

According to an updated assessment by the UK's Pesticides Safety Directorate (PSD) the proposals could remove up to 23 per cent of crop protection products which are vital to the production of fruit and vegetables across Europe.

"Fruit and vegetable prices could be set to rocket and it may not be economic to grow certain horticultural crops in the UK. We are waiting for PSD's agronomic report to check the full implications of the latest proposals. We will continue to call for a full European impact assessment to be included in the Regulations before they are enforced," said Nigel Jenney, Chief Executive of the Fresh Produce Consortium.

"We must hold MEPs accountable to hard pressed consumers in this difficult economic climate for the repercussions of their decision making when the European Parliament votes on the final proposals. Once we have the agronomic report we shall be giving further guidance to our members and contacts across the globe to continue to fight for the future of horticulture and to defend the right of the consumer to enjoy good quality healthy produce."

**++Ends++**

**Notes for editors:**

1. The Fresh Produce Consortium (FPC) is the UK's fresh produce trade association and is based in Peterborough. The FPC has represented the fresh produce sector for many years and is recognised across the UK and EU as the voice of the industry.
2. Extensive membership covers the complete spectrum of industry businesses including growers, importers, wholesalers, retailers, distributors, processors, packers, food service companies and other allied organisations.
3. The UK Pesticides Safety Directorate's report takes into account amendments made by the European Parliament's Environment Committee to the proposals to introduce cut off criteria and substitution of crop protection products. The report is available from:  
[http://www.pesticides.gov.uk/uploadedfiles/Web\\_Assets/PSD/Revised\\_Impact\\_Report\\_1\\_Dec\\_2008\(fin\\_al\).pdf](http://www.pesticides.gov.uk/uploadedfiles/Web_Assets/PSD/Revised_Impact_Report_1_Dec_2008(fin_al).pdf)