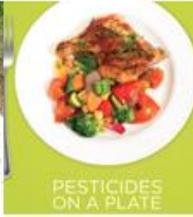


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## The Precautionary Principle

“When an activity raises threats of harm to human health or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause-and-effect relationships are not fully established scientifically”



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## EU Directive on the Sustainable use of Pesticides

**“.....aims to achieve a sustainable use of pesticides in the EU by reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment and promoting the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and of alternative approaches or techniques, such as non-chemical alternatives to pesticides.”**



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## EU Directive on the Sustainable use of Pesticides

- ensure that the use of pesticides is minimised or prohibited in certain specific areas.
- The specific areas in question are:
  - (a) areas used by the general public or by vulnerable groups as defined in Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009, such as public parks and gardens, sports and recreation grounds, school grounds and children's playgrounds and in the close vicinity of healthcare facilities;



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## The European Approach

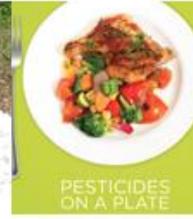
- **Belgium**
  - In Flanders, pesticide use in public areas has been banned since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015
  - In Wallonia, the use of pesticides in public spaces will be banned as of 1<sup>st</sup> June 2019
  - In Brussels pesticide use in public spaces will be banned from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019. Use of pesticides in areas frequented by vulnerable groups (i.e. schools, elderly homes, hospitals etc.) has also been banned since 2014.



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## The European Approach

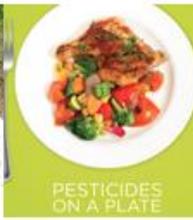
- **Germany - the use of pesticides on non-agricultural land is prohibited**
- **Denmark - decided to introduce a progressive ban on pesticides in 1998 in public spaces, leading up to a blanket ban in 2006**
- **France - pesticide use in parks and other public areas will be banned as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017**
- **Netherlands – banned pesticide use on pavements in 2016 and use of pesticides in green spaces was banned in 2017**



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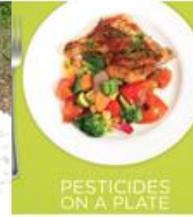
## Public and Political Support

- **Paris** went pesticide-free 15 years ago – the Mayor made the decision for the public good
- **Ghent** went pesticide-free 20 years ago – the Mayor supported it as the best option for citizens and the environment
- **Mals in South Tyrol** has gone pesticide free – following a public referendum and support from the Mayor
- **Pledges across Europe** – part of the European Pesticide-Free Towns Network



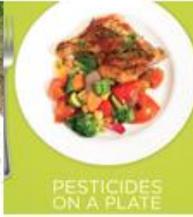
## A Joined up Approach

- **Munster, Germany** - pesticide-free since 1989
  - They use a variety of mechanical methods for controlling weeds including tractor mounted weed brushes, hand held weed brushes, hand-held infra-red devices, Ecoflame hot air drums and a number of blowers.
- **Allerod, Zealand, Denmark** – Since 1996 has banned the use of pesticides in all the areas under its control
  - Adopted a public education system that is aimed at the general public accepting a greater degree of ‘weediness’ on the streets
- **Furesoe, Denmark** – since 1999 has stopped the use of all pesticides on green spaces, roads and pathways.
  - Adopted a rigorous hand weeding regimen and also used grazing animals to deal with weeds



## Lessons from Europe

- **There is no silver bullet, a successful pesticide-free approach requires many different techniques in order to succeed**
- **In order to succeed the municipality (council) needs to be fully behind the idea, willing to try different approaches and realise that this is a long term objective that cannot be realised over night**
- **The support of the public is vital. Public awareness and education is a key element of any pesticide-free system**



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## Looking Ahead

- **Brexit – threats and opportunities**
- **Revisions to the UK National Action Plan**
- **Further restrictions on actives**
- **Development of more effective non-chemical methods**
- **Growing public concern about pesticides**