

TEA & HERBAL INFUSIONS EUROPE

Formerly: European Tea Committee (ETC) and European Herbal Infusions Association (EHIA)



Hamburg, 29th January, 2026 - [REDACTED]

European Commission
DG Health and Food Safety
Pesticides and biocides (SANTE.E.4)

[REDACTED]
Brussels
Belgium

via email to:

SCoPAFF Meeting 5-6/2/2026

PLAN/2025/1086 R3: MRL for metribuzin and metribuzin-DADK in tea and herbal infusions

Dear [REDACTED]

According to PLAN/2025/1086 R3 which is up for decision in the next SCoPAFF meeting scheduled for 5th-6th February, 2026 it is foreseen to lower the MRL for metribuzin from the LOQ of 0.1* mg/kg to 0.05* mg/kg and to introduce a new additional MRL for the metabolite metribuzin-DADK of 0.05* mg/kg.

We request to keep the MRL for metribuzin at the LOQ level of 0.1* mg/kg and to also set at least a temporary MRL for the metabolite metribuzin-DADK of 0.1* mg/kg for analytical reasons.

The "division" of the current MRL for metribuzin in tea and herbal infusions of 0.1* mg/kg into two new MRLs of 0.05* mg/kg is not appropriate as the current method applied for the analysis of metribuzin in tea and herbal infusions does not include the metabolite-DADK. The metabolite DADK has a significantly different structure compared to metribuzin and requires a separate method of analysis in tea and herbal infusions.

Tea and herbal infusions are regarded as difficult matrices so that an MRL for metribuzin at the LOQ level of 0.1* mg/kg is still appropriate.

As regards the metabolite metribuzin-DADK we currently lack experience as the laboratories specialized in the analysis of tea and herbal infusions were not able to measure it in daily



routine. Due to the legal developments and the introduction of a new additional MRL for the metabolite metribuzin-DADK laboratories have started to implement an analytical method and we expect first results in summer this year. We therefore propose to set a temporary MRL for metribuzin-DADK also at a level of 0.1* mg/kg and review it as soon as reliable experience on the analysis of this metabolite in tea and herbal infusions is available from private and official laboratories.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards

Tea and Herbal Infusions Europe – THIE

