Seventh Virtual Dublin Plant Protection Symposium 2026

Wednesday 18th – Thursday 19th November 2026

9.00h – 12.00h GMT/ 10.00h - 13.00h CET



Online Symposium organised by Kerona Scientific Ltd., Ireland

Programme

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Welcome to the 2026 Dublin PPP Symposium



Dear colleagues,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the Seventh Virtual PPP Symposium. This annual event provides a platform to examine key issues within the EU and GB/NI Regulatory Landscapes, drawing on insights from key stakeholders access the plant protection industry.

The symposium is designed to be concise, taking place over two mornings, and aims to deliver practical, relevant insights while accommodating delegates' working commitments. The virtual format ensures accessibility, allowing participants to engage fully while remaining connected to their daily responsibilities.

We extend our sincere thanks to all speakers for their contributions.

We encourage delegates to actively participate by submitting questions and sharing feedback, particularly on topics for future symposia. We hope this year's programme provides you with valuable knowledge to support your regulatory responsibilities and professional activities.

We wish you an engaging and productive symposium.

With every good wish



Irene McGrath

Managing Director

Kerona Scientific Ltd., Ireland

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2026 Dublin PPP Symposium

Day 1 – Wednesday 18th November 2026

All times are shown in Dublin local time (GMT/ IST). Please note that Central European time (CET) is one hour ahead of Dublin Time.

9.00h GMT	**Welcome and Introductions** **Dr Irene McGrath** Managing Director, Kerona Scientific Ltd., Ireland
9.10 - 9.35	**Key developments in the crop protection regulatory framework** **Dr. Kevin Heylen** CropLife Europe, Belgium
9.35 - 9.40	Question and answer session
9.40 - 10.05	**Regulatory developments in GB/NI Region** **Sarah Frow** Health and Safety Executive, CRD, UK
10.05 – 10.10	Question and answer session
10.10 – 10.30	Coffee Break
10.30 - 10.55	**Plant Protection Product Registration in Croatia: From Application to Market** **Dr. Antonela Majić** Conagra Reg d.o.o., Croatia
10.55 - 11.00	Question and answer session
11.00 – 11.25	**Main considerations from PPP guideline updates and Authorities' evaluations to provide fully compliant analytical dossiers** **Christine Roehri and Cindy Jean-Baptiste** ANADIAG SAS, France
11.25 – 11.30	Question and answer session
11.30 –11.55	**Birds and Mammals risk assessment guidance** **Dr Rachel Jane Sharp** European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), Italy
11.55 – 12.00	Question and answer session
12.00 GMT	**Closing remarks from Day 1 and additional time for Q&A** **Dr Irene McGrath**

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Day 2 – Thursday 19th November 2026

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9.00h GMT	**Welcome back** **Dr Irene McGrath** Managing Director, Kerona Scientific Ltd., Ireland
9.10 - 9.35	**European Regulation of Biocontrol Products** **Thérèse Gohin** IBMA- International Biocontrol Manufacturers Association, Belgium
9.35 - 9.40	Question and answer session
9.40 - 10.05	**Update on activities in the Central Zone** **Dr Theresa Merl** Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES), Austria
10.05 – 10.10	Question and answer session
10.10 – 10.30	Coffee Break
10.30-10.55	**Update on activities in the Southern Zone** **Bento de Carvalho** Plant Protection Products Management and Authorization Unit, Direção-Geral de Alimentação e Veterinária (DGAV), Portugal
10.55-11.00	Question and answer session
11.00 – 11.25	**Updates from the Northern Zone 2026** **Sandra Schmidt Jørgensen** Agrolab Consulting, Denmark
11.25 – 11.30	Question and answer session
11.30 – 11.55	**Recent legal cases impacting plant protection products in the EU** **Darren Abrahams** Steptoe and Johnson LLP, Belgium
11.55-12.00	Question and answer session
12.00-12.15	**Closing remarks from Day 2 and additional time for Q&A** **Dr Irene McGrath**

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Speakers on Day 1 – Wednesday 18th November 2026

Dr. Kevin Heylen
Senior Regulatory Affairs Manager, CropLife Europe, Belgium



Kevin has been Senior Manager Regulatory Affairs at CropLife Europe since 2021. CropLife Europe represents the crop protection sector across conventional pesticides, biopesticides, plant biotechnology, and digital and precision agriculture. Kevin's responsibilities cover the European regulatory framework for crop protection products, including biocontrol solutions, covering both active substance approval and product authorisation. He also manages regulatory issues relating to other relevant EU legislation, including pesticide residues and general chemicals legislation.

Before joining CropLife Europe, Kevin spent seven years as Regulatory Affairs Advisor with the Belgian crop protection and biocides association, where he covered both crop protection products and biocides. Earlier in his career, he worked at DG SANTE and in a laboratory research role at the University of Florida, USA. Kevin holds a PhD in Biochemistry from the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium.

Sarah Frow
Acting Head of Unit, Pesticides Regulation – Health and Safety Executive (HSE), Chemical Regulations Division, UK



Sarah is an operational leader in HSE, having trained and practised as a solicitor defending corporate clients in regulatory investigations and prosecutions in a former life. Sarah joined HSE in 2021 and worked in operationalising pesticide authorisations following the transition period post EU Exit, ensuring as a regulator compliance with GB only and NI only authorisations could be operationalised in a clear process. She now oversees the pesticides Unit which consists of the delivery teams working in HSE for the pesticide permissioning process, ensuring that high quality authorisations are outputted and managing performance and timeliness of authorisations being issued, which includes oversight of the lifetime of a pesticide application.

Dr Antonela Majić
Regulatory Consultant, Conagra Reg d.o.o., Croatia



Antonela is a regulatory consultant specialising in the registration of plant protection products, fertilisers and biocides in Croatia. She began her career as an advisor in an agricultural pharmacy before joining the University of Zagreb, Faculty of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Zoology in 2005. There, she was involved in teaching, field experiments and entomological research, and published several scientific and professional papers in national and international journals. Antonela subsequently joined the Centre for Plant Protection, where she worked as an expert in the evaluation of plant protection products, specialising in environmental fate, as well as in entomology.

Antonela later moved into the Croatian industry sector as a Regulatory Manager before establishing herself as an independent regulatory consultant, advising both international and national companies. Antonela graduated in Plant Protection and holds a PhD in Phytomedicine from the University of Zagreb, Faculty of Agriculture.

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Speakers on Day 1 – Wednesday 18th November 2026

Christine Roehri
Laboratory Manager and Study Director, ANADIAG SAS, France



Christine holds a PhD in Organic Chemistry from the University Louis Pasteur, Strasbourg. She joined ANADIAG SAS in 2007, specialising in the analytical development of methods for screening and characterising active substances. She subsequently developed the company's chemical services dedicated to the custom synthesis of analytical impurity standards before taking on the role of Study Director, managing 5-batch and physicochemical studies.

In 2017, Christine moved into a global laboratory management role. Working closely with clients worldwide, she provides scientific support for regulatory registrations and oversees service compliance with relevant regulatory requirements. She is also responsible for assessing the technical feasibility of new project requests in the areas of biocides, REACH and plant protection products.

Cindy Jean-Baptiste
Business Development Manager, ANADIAG SAS, France



Cindy has been Business Development Manager at ANADIAG SAS since 2020, specialising in GLP services including 5-batch studies, physicochemical testing and residue projects covering both field trials and analytical studies. She works closely with clients to identify tailored solutions to support product registration worldwide.

A graduate in Chemical Engineering from École Polytechnique (Université libre de Bruxelles), Cindy joined ANADIAG SAS in 2004 and has over 20 years' experience in the plant protection products sector. During her career, she has held various technical and management roles, including Study Director for GLP analytical residue studies and manager of the team responsible for physicochemical studies.

Dr Rachel Sharp
Regulatory Ecotoxicologist, EFSA and the UK Pesticides Authority, Italy



Rachel Sharp is a regulatory ecotoxicologist with 22 years' experience at EFSA and the UK's pesticides authority. She has worked on a wide range of pesticide risk assessments and contributed to several key EFSA projects, including coordinating the update of the Guidance Document on the risk assessment for birds and mammals.

More recently, Rachel has been involved in EFSA's work on assessing the indirect effects of pesticides through trophic interactions. Her experience covers a broad range of pesticide product types, including those considered to pose lower risks than conventional pesticides.

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Speakers on Day 2 – Thursday 19th November 2026

Thérèse Gohin
Technical & Regulatory Officer, International Biocontrol Manufacturers Association (IBMA), Belgium



Thérèse is a Regulatory Project Officer at IBMA Global, the international association representing the biocontrol industry. She supports four professional groups covering microorganisms, invertebrate biocontrol agents, natural substances and semiochemicals, contributing to the development of a proportionate, science-based regulatory framework for biocontrol.

Thérèse previously worked in the European Commission's DG SANTE unit responsible for pesticide regulation and has experience in sustainable food systems, agroecology and international development, including two years managing projects in Senegal. Thérèse holds an engineering degree in International Agronomy and Development, specialising in health and nutrition.

Dr Theresa Merl
Case Manager (Products & Active Substances), Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES), Austria



Theresa is a scientist at the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES), with a background in technical chemistry and specialisation in environmental and soil chemistry. Her research focuses on soil health, fertiliser effects, ammonia emissions and environmental pollution.

Theresa holds a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry from the University of Graz and completed master's-level studies at the University of New England in Australia, Graz University of Technology and Aarhus University in Denmark. She subsequently obtained a PhD in Biology and Analytical Chemistry from Aarhus University.

Bento de Carvalho
Senior Officer Plant Protection Products Management and Authorization Unit, Direção-Geral de Alimentação e Veterinária (DGAV), Portugal



Bento is an Agronomic Engineer and has worked at the Portuguese Competent Authority for plant protection products since 1999. He is Portugal's EU contact point for PPP authorisations and a member of the EFSA Pesticide Steering Network. He also represents Portugal on the Southern Zone Steering Committee, Interzonal Steering Committee and Post-Approval Issues Working Group.

Bento holds a Master's degree in Public Policy and Administration.

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Speakers on Day 2 – Thursday 19th November 2026

Sandra Schmidt Jørgensen
CEO, Agrolab Consulting, Denmark



Sandra is the CEO of AgroLab Consulting and an experienced regulatory affairs professional specialising in pesticide registration in the Nordic and Baltic countries. Sandra has spent more than 10 years working at the intersection of science, regulation, and business, supporting international crop protection companies with regulatory strategy, product registrations, and market access across the Northern Zone. In addition to her technical expertise,

Sandra brings extensive leadership experience from executive and board-facing roles in highly regulated environments.

Darren Abrahams
Partner, Steptoe and Johnson LLP, Belgium

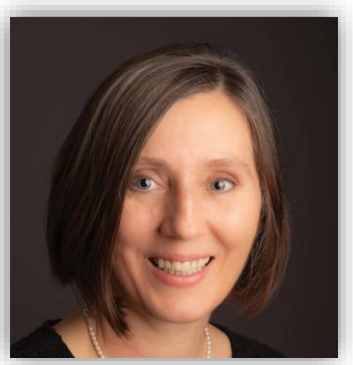


Darren advises clients across the chemicals and life sciences supply chain on obtaining and maintaining market access for their products in the UK and EU. He provides strategic advice to companies, consortia and trade associations worldwide, undertakes advocacy before public authorities and agencies, and represents clients in litigation before courts and tribunals, including the ECHA Board of Appeal and the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU).

Darrens expertise spans biocidal products, plant protection products, REACH, CLP, food and feed legislation, GMOs and wider environmental law, including extensive experience with the Aarhus Convention.

Chairperson

Dr. Irene McGrath
Managing Director, Kerona Scientific Ltd., Ireland



Irene is Managing Director of Kerona Scientific, a European regulatory consultancy headquartered in Ireland, with offices in the UK and Spain. She has over 30 years' experience managing regulatory departments in industry and providing regulatory consultancy services, with expertise spanning plant protection products, biocides, biostimulants and fertilisers across the EU.

She leads a team supporting clients across the proprietary and generic plant protection, biocides, fertiliser, plant biostimulant and biopesticide sectors, helping them meet their European regulatory requirements.

Irene holds a BSc in Analytical Science and a PhD in Chemistry from Dublin City University (DCU).

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