



PRESS RELEASE

11th European Pesticide Residue Workshop

Limassol, 24 - 27/05/2016

On May, 24 - 27, the State General Laboratory (SGL) of Cyprus, is organizing in Limassol, the “11th European Pesticide Residue Workshop (EPRW)”. The Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, Mr Nicos Kouyialis, has addressed the conference.

The EPRW is the premier European meeting for the presentation and discussion of the latest concepts and developments in the field of pesticide residues in food and drink. The purpose of the meeting is to share the state of the art techniques, knowledge, legislative requirements, etc. The EPRW, as a well-established and internationally recognized format also provides a platform for the exchange of information and experience in the field bringing together people from each of the relevant sectors.

“Consumer’s health and Environment protection from the use of pesticides, and the prevention of health risks, is a prime issue for Cyprus”, Mr Kouyialis underlined. He also referred to the importance of the strict monitoring and surveillance programs on pesticides residue that Cyprus carries both for domestic and for imported products, and he stressed the enhanced role of Cyprus in the area, being at the most eastern borders of the European Union. To this end it closely cooperates with the European Commission, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the Competent Authorities of the EU Member States.

The Minister also referred to the worrying phenomenon of multi-residues of pesticides (the presence of more than one pesticides residues in food), which consists a challenge for the experts. Specifically, EFSA’s 2013 Report showed that, from more than 81000 samples of food from all EU Member States, Iceland and Norway, that have been monitored, only the 1,5% of them exceeded the legal limit, while 27% of them have been found with multi-residues from which the 68% originated from EU Member States.

More than 400 representatives from government and private laboratories, public authorities, regulatory bodies, food producers, processors, retailers, agrochemical manufacturers and all other interested parties, participate in this conference, from 48 countries, not only from Europe but also from America, Australia and Canada.

The European Pesticide Residue Workshop (EPRW) – hosted every second year by a different European member state – Cyprus had been chosen to host the Workshop among other interested countries.

24th May 2016