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## **European Union - Chlorothalonil (pesticide)**

Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay, the US and Canada all expressed concern with the EU's proposed non-renewal of market authorization for chlorothalonil, a fungicide used on many agricultural products exported to the EU, including, coffee, almonds, bananas, citrus fruits, cranberries, papaya and watermelon. They are concerned that the non-renewal was not founded only on a proper risk-analysis, and without considering existing CODEX maximum residue levels (MRLs). They also noted that chlorothalonil is currently authorized for use by many countries.

The European Union said that its decision followed an extensive peer review process conducted by the European Food Safety Authority. This review concluded that chlorothalonil should be classified as carcinogen category 1B while acknowledging that several areas of the risk assessment could not be finalised due to insufficient data. The EU also said that this decision would not lead to immediate disruptions in trade because the purpose was not to amend the MRLs for this pesticide, and that a grace period for the use of products containing chlorothalonil would also be provided. The EU added that the possibility of granting transitional measures would be considered when the process of proposing any changes to existing MRLs starts.