

MEMORANDUM – RECENT NEWS INVOLVING THE CUT FLOWERS SECTOR AND THE USE OF PHYTOSANITARY PRODUCTS

The French plant sector wishes to react to the hearing held on 9 October 2024 before the Rennes Court of Appeal, regarding the case brought by the Marivain family.

First of all, the sector expresses its compassion for the terrible suffering of the family that lost their child.

The specific case being examined by the court involves the compensation offered to the family by the French "Compensation fund for the victims of pesticides" (Fonds d'indemnisation des victimes de pesticides, or FIVP), and raises the subject of health protection for industry professionals.

In this regard, the sector reiterates that it observes a strict legislative and regulatory framework with regard to the use of phytosanitary products. These substances are subject to authorisation from public authorities, and their use is controlled. With regard to plants sourced from outside the EU, national organisations encourage professionals to prioritise sourcing from certified flower farms.

The sector also promotes best practices in order to limit exposure by professionals, and is committed to ensuring the traceability of cut flowers.

In addition, the sector is investing in research and innovation for the development of alternative methods, and is developing voluntary approaches, quality labels and certifications.

The sector, via the VALHOR inter-professional organisation and its member organisations, will remain attentive to the court's decision, expected for the end of the year.

About VALHOR :

VALHOR has been officially acknowledged by French public authorities as the French horticulture, floristry and landscape inter-branch organization. It represents 45,885 specialist businesses and 202,440 professionals, generating €15.3 billion in revenues. It is the umbrella body for 10 French professional organizations representing the production (VERDIR, Felcoop, UFS, CR), sales (FFAF, JAF, FGFP, Floralisa) and landscaping (Unep, FFP) sectors.

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