

**Question for written answer E-006424/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Stefan Eck (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Endosulfan use in aquaculture

Commission Regulation (EU) No 744/2012 raised the maximum level (ML) for endosulfan (an unauthorised pesticide in the EU, banned in 80 countries, and an undesirable substance in animal feed) in complete feed for salmonids. The CONTAM Panel of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) had found that recent information on the toxicity of endosulfan in fish did nothing to change the conclusions previously drawn by the EFSA: endosulfan remains highly toxic in fish. The CONTAM Panel also recommended further studies (EFSA Journal 2011;9(4):2131). To what extent did the Commission ensure consumer safety in setting a higher ML for endosulfan in complete feed for salmonids, an aquaculture product that is consumed in vast quantities in the EU?

Can the Commission explain why it set higher levels for unauthorised pesticides in animal feed, despite the EFSA's confirming high toxicity and calling for further studies?

Can the Commission justify the raising of the ML for endosulfan despite the Norwegian Government's warning to young and pregnant women not to eat fatty fish such as salmon more than twice a week, because of the persistence of pesticides?

Will the Commission lower the ML for endosulfan to the previous levels in order to safeguard animal and public health?