

**Question for written answer E-006746/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Bart Staes (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Inconsistency of the use of neonicotinoids with European policy

The use of neonicotinoids is disastrous for the ecosystem and biodiversity because it damages pollinators such as bees, including bumblebees. Recent research by the European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC)¹ demonstrates that authorising the use of neonicotinoids in agriculture is contrary to various principles enshrined in European legislation. For example, it is contrary to the principle of 'integrated pest management' which is laid down in the directive on action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides (Directive 2009/128/EC)². In addition, the study queries whether permitting the use of neonicotinoids is compatible with European policy on biodiversity and the principle of sustainability in the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

1. Does the Commission endorse the findings of the above study?
2. If not, can it indicate why not?
3. If so, will the Commission take the necessary steps to eliminate the inconsistency between permitting the use of neonicotinoids and the above-mentioned European legislation, and is it therefore prepared to extend to all neonicotinoids the strict regulation which has already been implemented for three types of neonicotinoid in Regulation (EU) No 485/2013?

¹ EASAC report: http://www.easac.eu/fileadmin/Reports/Easac_15_ES_web_complete.pdf

² Directive 2009/128/EC:
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/NL/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32009L0128&from=EN>