

**Question for written answer E-006926/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Lola Sánchez Caldentey (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Total ban on allowing consumer products containing DDT into the EU and removal of maximum residue levels for banned substances

In 1996, as part of the UN Environment Programme, talks began with a view to phasing out DDT (dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane) completely by 2007.

DDT is an insecticide that was used during the 1940s to spray huge swaths of farmland. In the 1970s the agricultural use of DDT was banned in many countries owing to the damage it caused to wildlife. The USA banned it outright in 1973. The other First World countries were quick to follow suit: in 1995, at least 49 countries banned all uses of DDT owing to its persistence as a pollutant and to the dangers posed to the environment. By that time it was well known that DDT and its derivatives remained in the environment for many years and accumulated in the bodies of living organisms, remaining there and sometimes reaching levels high enough to trigger toxic effects.

Why does the EU not comply with the UN programme and introduce a blanket ban on the entry into the EU of consumer products containing DDT?

Why do we have legislation that lays down maximum residue limits for products such as DDT that pose an extremely high risk to health?