

**Question for written answer E-008311/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Certification of operators applying plant protection products; extension of the deadline

Under Directive 2009/128/EC, all operators applying plant protection products must have certificates to use them as of November 2015.

According to official information, the 2 500 training sessions held so far cover only a tiny portion of the 264 400 registered farms.

In our view, it is humanly and technically impossible to certify all sprayer operators by the deadline (26 November 2015), given that farmers alone number 221 400, while 43 000 obtained certificates over nine years (2006/2014).

In view of this, is the Commission in a position to allow an adequate extension of the deadline for certification of operators applying plant protection products, so that many thousands of farmers are not prevented, because of this, from continuing their activities, which would have serious economic consequences for their families and regions and for agriculture in each Member State and the EU?