

**Question for written answer E-010659/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Franz Obermayr (ENF)**

Subject: Damage to flora and fauna by the cultivation of palm oil

According to an article in the *Der Standard* newspaper (<http://derstandard.at/2000017625442/Frankreich-macht-gegen-Nutella-mobil>), in the television programme *le petit journal* France's Environment Minister called for a boycott of a certain type of hazelnut spread. She especially criticised the manufacturer Ferrero for the presence of palm oil in its *Nutella* chocolate spread. Palm oil is produced in tropical regions and in the Minister's opinion its production requires the clearance of excessively large areas of forest. Ferrero obtains its palm oil from Malaysia, Papua New Guinea and Brazil. The cultivation methods for palm oil therefore come in for criticism today in environmental protection and development aid circles.

1. Does the Commission share the above concerns that the cultivation of palm oil has a negative effect on flora and fauna especially in developing countries? What is the Commission's view of the effects of its cultivation on the food resources of indigenous peoples?
2. If the Commission agrees the above issues pose a problem, what countermeasures does the Commission plan to take in order to reduce/totally restrict the use of palm oil and the further increase in the areas under cultivation?