

**Question for written answer E-010662/2015**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Franz Obermayr (ENF)**

Subject: EU organic logo and pesticide contamination of food

Consumers today are increasingly turning to organically farmed foods. The EU organic logo is intended to enable consumers to be confident that organic produce is free of harmful substances or other pesticides. Organic farmers are not officially permitted to employ conventional plant protection products. Despite this, inspectors have found traces of pesticides in some cases. Often, this is not due to the method of cultivation, but to the fact that organic land is located in the vicinity of conventionally farmed land, the pesticides from which are spread by the wind.

1. In what sense does the EU organic logo still provide a guarantee that only products free of harmful substances are being sold?
2. Do any plans exist to create different grades of approval under the EU organic logo to increase the transparency of cultivation methods?
3. What general experience has the Commission gained concerning acceptance amongst producers of the EU organic logo and competition with national/regional organic labels?