

**Question for written answer E-000226/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Bart Staes (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Interpretation of 'available means' in Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009

According to Directive 2009/128/EC, pesticide use should be based on sustainable practices/IPM. However, the new derogation (Article 4.7 of Regulation 1107/2009) for the very pesticides that are most harmful might undermine this goal.

1. On what criteria do DG SANCO and EFSA base their assessment of 'available means'?
2. How does the Commission guarantee that the serious danger to plant health cannot be contained by other 'available means' including non-chemical methods?
3. Does the Commission agree that 'available means' does not include a whole range of alternatives to combat 'resistance', since resistance is caused by bad agricultural practices (monocultures, overdosing with pesticides, weak varieties) and is only worsened by increased spraying?