

**Question for written answer E-000464/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Udo Voigt (NI)

Subject: Monopoly on food

The Campact campaign leader Lara Dovifat announced recently that the European Patent Office grants multinational companies full and exclusive rights over naturally cultivated food. This creates a monopoly over what we eat. More than 120 natural foods have already been patented – 1 000 patent applications await a decision. They have been filed by giant companies such as Monsanto, Bayer or Syngenta.

1. Who bears the political responsibility for granting these patents?
2. How long are these patents valid for and can they be terminated?
3. Is it, in the Commission's opinion, morally right or even legal for patents on food to be sold?