

**Question for written answer E-001023/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Patrick Le Hyaric (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Genetically modified Bt176 maize

A study by the Committee for Independent Research and Information on Genetic Engineering has underlined the possible harmful effects on the health of farm animals of genetically modified maize marketed as cattle feed.

This study is based on an experiment conducted over a five-year period on a sample of 70 cows. It is the longest-running study on this issue, with access to all the raw data available, and its findings are worrying: the insecticidal toxins produced by a little over 15% of the GM maize in the world (Bt maize) may be toxic in the long term and cause paresis in cows, severe fatigue, kidney problems and diseases of the mucous membranes, followed by death in the case of 10% of the animals. Despite a large number of analyses, no microbial cause could be found to explain these deaths.

The Commission is therefore asked to answer the following questions:

1. Is the Commission aware of this study?
2. Has it considered revising the GMO authorisation procedure at European level, or even suspending it?
3. Does it not consider that allowing research studies to be conducted by industry leads to conflict of interest situations and that such studies should be prohibited when the protection of animal health, and therefore also of consumer health, is at issue?