

**Question for written answer E-001325/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Combating pests with products for minor uses

Between 1993 and 2009, the number of active substances authorised for use in the European Union was cut by 70 per cent, while pests were an ever-growing problem. Similarly, the approval process for new active substances is being made increasingly stringent.

European farmers are faced with serious problems in combating certain pests in the field of minor uses. This is compounded by the increased resistance of crops against the few authorised substances that can be used.

The new EU Minor Uses Coordination Facility, that was set up in September 2015 and financed to the tune of EUR 750 000, has no plans to fund projects to increase the availability of new active substances, and limits itself to helping coordinate activities undertaken by Member States.

In view of the current situation:

What steps will the Commission take to combat certain pests in the field of minor uses?

Can the Commission say what the new Coordination Facility is doing?

Could it be used as a way to finance research projects on new active substances?