

**Question for written answer E-002029/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Patrick Le Hyaric (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Prohibition of dimethoate in the production of cherries

Dimethoate is an active insecticide substance listed in the Annex to Regulation (EU) No 540/2011. Under a marketing authorisation procedure, dimethoate-based products may be used against fruit flies. Today it is the only effective and affordable means of dealing with this pest.

The French national health safety agency is about to remove this substance from the list of authorised products. This decision would spell disaster for French cherry producers, in terms of both production and turnover, without in any way benefiting consumers, as producers in other European countries would continue to use this substance to protect their production.

1. Does it agree that implementing this ban on dimethoate in France would amount to a distortion of competition, since it would subject French producers to much stricter rules than EU rules?
2. Since alternatives to this dangerous pesticide are currently far too expensive to be used by farmers, could the Commission consider, in the light of the current crisis in agriculture, creating an aid mechanism to facilitate this transition?