

**Question for written answer E-002036/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Norbert Erdős (PPE)**

Subject: Economic and social impact of prohibiting certain endocrine disrupters

From the point of view of preserving the competitiveness of agriculture in the European Union and maintaining production, it is extremely important that farmers should have unhampered access to the latest and most effective plant protection products, always provided that they do not present any potential danger to human health and the environment. The only active substances which it is therefore permissible to describe as 'endocrine disrupters' are those whose use under real conditions presents a risk to human beings or the environment.

Endocrine disrupters may be found in certain plant protection products: therefore the Commission should impose limit values only on a scientific basis where active substances are unequivocally present in plant protection products. In order to achieve this, it is necessary to perform an ex-ante impact assessment, which must take appropriate account of the economic and social impact of any ban, particularly the impact that regulation would have on the competitiveness of farmers.

I should like to put the following questions to the Commissioner responsible for food safety:

1. Approximately how many pages does the Commission intend to devote to any assessment of the economic and social impact of a ban?
2. Does the Commission consider the present hazard-based legislation to be fit for purpose from the point of view of dealing with risks and of innovation?
3. Where will the hazard assessment and risk benefit analysis of endocrine disrupters figure in the future ex-ante impact assessment?