

**Question for written answer E-003056/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Adam Szejnfeld (PPE)**

Subject: Identification of endocrine disruptors

The increase in the incidence of hormonal disorders has prompted concerns about the harmful effect the chemical substances used in plant protection are having on the human endocrine system. It is difficult to determine exactly to what extent daily exposure to these chemical substances affects disorder rates. Nonetheless, the EU has rightly responded to the concerns raised and, on the basis of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009, has banned the use of endocrine disrupting substances.

It is currently working to define criteria for identifying endocrine disruptors. It is imperative that the Commission is proportionate and makes a fair assessment of the individual risks posed to human health. Only then can the highest level of safety be guaranteed without reducing the competitiveness of the European agricultural market and other sectors that could suffer if the criteria are not carefully selected. It should be remembered that an overly hasty decision could cause yields to fall by as much as 50 %, thereby raising consumer prices, slashing farmers' income and prompting a rise in imports from third countries.

In its ongoing impact assessment work for the identification of criteria to define endocrine disruptors, is the Commission taking account of the impact its decision could have on the competitiveness of the European agricultural market and the economy as a whole?