

**Question for written answer E-003152/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Mireille D'Ornano (ENF)**

Subject: Assessing the costs of pesticide use

The toxicity of pesticides is at the heart of the discussions on whether they should be permitted or prohibited. However, the study of the macroeconomic costs related to the use of plant protection products has virtually not been mentioned at all.

The environmental costs concern, for example, the reduction in pollination, in addition to the health costs relating to health expenditure or to the reduced productivity of workers in contact with pesticides. There are also legal costs, because the regulation and control of these substances, and the decontamination of pesticide-polluted areas, have a price. Lastly, so-called avoidance costs are incurred when households prefer to spend more, with the sole aim of avoiding pesticides, for example by buying organic products. Some studies claim that these aggregate costs amount to several billion euro.

1. Does the Commission take into account the macroeconomic costs of pesticide use? Does it have any available studies on this issue?
2. Given the extent of these additional costs for economies, what is the Commission actually planning to do in order to support alternatives to pesticides?