

**Question for written answer E-004972/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Carolina Punset (ALDE) and Javier Nart (ALDE)

Subject: Phasing out plant protection products in and around cities

One of the conclusions from the recent European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns in April 2016 was that it is essential for cities to become more sustainable and resilient, lead the way in reducing carbon emissions and be part of the circular economy.

One way of achieving these goals in the EU is to reduce or completely phase out the use of synthetic plant protection products in and around cities. Many cities and towns in the EU have already done so of their own accord.

The goal of the next United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Development is to discuss the global challenges linked to urbanisation, and to try to provide solutions when implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.

Does the Commission believe that reducing or outlawing synthetic plant protection products in cities, a means of fostering sustainable development, should be encouraged in Member States?

Does it plan to set standards in an effort to kick-start the withdrawal of plant protection products in and around cities, and safeguard these policies that towns and cities in the EU have brought into effect?