

**Question for written answer E-006826/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Elisabeth Köstinger (PPE)

Subject: Bayer-Monsanto takeover: combating monopoly formation

According to recent reports, the German pharmaceuticals and agro-chemicals concern Bayer is planning to take over the US seed company Monsanto. This could make Bayer the largest manufacturer of seed and pesticides in the world.

The risks and costs of the formation of a monopoly in the seed market are enormous, particularly for agriculture, genetic diversity and biodiversity.

1. What measures is the Commission taking to ensure the diversity of supply on the seed market in the long term?
2. What merger control measures has the Commission taken to prevent a distortion or restriction of competition on the internal market?
3. What evaluation criteria are being used to minimise the risks entailed by the marketing of combined seed-and-pesticide products?