

**Question for written answer E-007006/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Bayer-Monsanto acquisition

Bayer has bought the company Monsanto.

A merger of the two giants would lead to a concentration of the market share of plant protection products and seeds, also taking into account the merger/acquisition of ChemChina-SyngentaAG and DuPont-DowChemical Co, which would give three companies 70% of the pesticide market.

The two companies have a monopoly over herbicides; one of these, glyphosate, despite having been declared as a probable carcinogenic by the IARC, has recently had its authorisation renewed by the European Council, partly thanks to the abstention of Germany, which came just as its main company in the sector was confirming its interest in acquiring Monsanto, the company that produces that very herbicide.

Such market concentrations seriously risk significantly upsetting the balance in power relations between producers of patented seeds and farmers, resulting in increases in prices for consumers.

Considering the above, does the Commission consider that the merger of the two main competitors in the herbicide sector complies with EU rules on the protection of competition within the internal market?

What actions will it take to avoid reducing competition in the plant protection product and seed markets to the detriment of European citizens and farmers?