

**Question for written answer E-007154/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Patrick Le Hyaric (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Bayer's acquisition of Monsanto

The German pharmaceutical group Bayer intends to acquire the US seed company Monsanto for EUR 59 billion. This purchase would mean Bayer controlling more than a quarter of the global market in seeds and pesticides. Global market concentration at that level is extremely dangerous in an area which is so critical for our food and our health, when what we urgently need is an alternative, sustainable agricultural model which is fair to both farmers and consumers.

Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 on the control of concentrations between undertakings allows the Commission to investigate and prevent takeovers of this type if they contribute to a significant reduction in competition in the single market by strengthening a dominant position. The cumulative global turnover of Monsanto and Bayer would be EUR 23 billion euros, well above the threshold of EUR 5 billion laid down in the regulation.

Does the Commission consider that this acquisition involves an excessive concentration in the seed and pesticide sectors?

Does the Commission intend to open an investigation into this takeover?

What action does it intend to take to protect European farmers and citizens?