

**Question for written answer E-002210/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Norbert Erdős (PPE) and Pál Csáky (PPE)

Subject: Need for a palm oil-based economy in Europe

Biodiesel consumption has increased by 30% in Europe since 2012, when the Commission first submitted its proposal for the Directive on indirect land use change with the intention of preventing undesirable land use changes, e.g. deforestation due to palm oil.

According to the European Federation for Transport and Environment, the majority of the increase in consumption comes from biodiesel made from palm oil, which accounts for nearly half of European palm oil imports.

From the point of view of climate policy, palm oil is undoubtedly harmful. The GLOBIUM Study ordered by the Commission illustrates that biodiesel made from palm oil results in more than three times the greenhouse gas emissions of fossil fuels, not to mention the fact that it has a catastrophic impact on biodiversity and air quality.

Even after the publication of the Commission's proposal for a new Renewable Energy Directive, the palm oil industry expects an even greater output in 2017, which will result in a 1% increase in global demand and an additional 125 000 ha of palm oil plantations in the short term. The main reason for this is presumably that the price of palm oil is 30% lower than that of other vegetable oils. The use of locally-produced ethanol decreased in the same period. Incidentally, this results in almost zero change in land use.

1. How does the Commission believe that the regulations on indirect land use change can be defended scientifically when they have the opposite effect to what they should?
2. Does the Commission not think that the time has now come to pass regulations that distinguish palm oil from other biofuels?