

**Question for written answer E-002424/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Rachida Dati (PPE)

Subject: EU ban on neonicotinoids

On 8 March 2017, in a report on the dangers of pesticides to human health and the environment, Hilal Elver, UN special rapporteur on the right to food, and Baskut Tuncak, special rapporteur on toxics, stated that 'excessive use and misuse of pesticides result in contamination of surrounding soil and water sources, causing loss of biodiversity [and] destroying beneficial insect populations'.

In 2016, the journal *Nature* published the results of an 18-year study proving the link between pesticides (mainly neonicotinoids) and the decline of bees, which are essential to ecosystems.

To protect those insects, the Commission is currently working on legislation to ban three neonicotinoid pesticides (clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam).

However, neonicotinoids are present in more than 120 countries and remain the most widely used pesticides in the world. A total ban on products of that type could interfere with the pest control practices of European farmers and potentially harm the quality of crops.

In view of the large-scale use of this type of pesticide, what transitional measures would the Commission introduce in the event of a ban on these three pesticides?