

**Question for written answer E-002835/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Patrick Le Hyaric (GUE/NGL)

Subject: International Monsanto Tribunal

On 18 April the International Monsanto Tribunal presented its opinion on the American company's practices.

This civil society initiative has no legal force but the six legal questions brought before the tribunal derive from United Nations texts, notably those of the Human Rights Council.

According to the tribunal made up of 5 judges drawn from the legal profession, Monsanto's practices and products have been detrimental to the right to food, health and a healthy environment. In addition, the company was found to have deceived legislators by manipulating scientific studies in order to obtain permits for dangerous products.

The judges also ruled that international law should protect the environment and recognise ecocide as a crime.

How does the Commission intend to incorporate the conclusions of the remarkable work done by the people's tribunal?

Should the Commission not modify its procedures for approving chemical substances, pesticides and genetically modified organisms?

Given that Monsanto-Bayer and Syngenta-ChemChina dominate this sector, there is an increased risk of them using their expertise and influence to manipulate supervisory and health authorities. How does the Commission intend to uphold the precautionary principle and develop significant scientific counter-expertise?