

**Question for written answer E-004207/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Authorisation for glyphosate and the 'Monsanto Papers'

In the last two years, two EU agencies, EFSA in Parma and ECHA in Helsinki, have reviewed the scientific evidence on the impact of glyphosate on human health and the environment. Although the devastating effects of non-selective use of herbicides on agricultural ecosystems are obvious, and its toxicity to aquatic organisms is widely recognised, the public debate focuses on whether glyphosate causes cancer. Contrary to the opinion of the UN's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC, composed of 17 experts from 11 different nationalities), both the EFSA and ECHA concluded in their assessment that the glyphosate does not cause cancer.

This assessment was, however, chiefly based on studies funded by the glyphosate industry, uncritically accepting its findings without questioning the quality of the underlying data, counter to the guidelines and procedures of the OECD. Communications between Monsanto and the Environmental Protection Agency revealed in the 'Monsanto Papers' show that parts of these studies were fraudulent, thus calling into question the conclusions drawn by EFSA and ECHA.

What view does the Commission take of these developments and what does this mean for glyphosate use in the EU.