

**Question for written answer E-004314/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Patrick Le Hyaric (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Ban on neonicotinoid-based pesticides

Neonicotinoid-based pesticides are responsible for the startlingly high death rate among bees and other pollinating insects, which has led to an annual increase in losses of bee colonies of 14% in France and of up to 33% in Belgium. These pesticides not only contaminate sap, nectar, pollen and groundwater, but also jeopardise pollination by bees, a process essential to the production of more than a third of the world's food.

An immediate, total ban is needed, therefore.

In March 2017, the Commission proposed a ban on the use of neonicotinoid-based pesticides to take effect in September 2018, except in greenhouse cultivation. Can the Commission confirm its commitment to a ban on these substances which are harmful to our environment and, in particular, can it speed up the introduction of the ban and make it total?

The French Minister for Agriculture and Food, Stéphane Travert, has stated that he intends to reverse the ban on these products in France, on the pretext that it is not consistent with European law. Does the Commission agree with this assessment, which could call into question, in the name of European law, the ambitious ban introduced in France?