

**Question for written answer E-005633/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Alex Mayer (S&D)

Subject: The UK's National Institute of Agricultural Botany and Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability (DUS) tests for ornamentals

In late May 2017, acting on instructions from the Commission, the Community Plant Variety Office (CVPO) informed the UK's National Institute of Agricultural Botany (NIAB) that it would not be requesting further Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability (DUS) tests under the Designation Agreement for Testing Ornamentals, a decision described by the NIAB as more sudden and absolute than anticipated.

With reference to the above points:

1. Why has this decision been made, given that until the UK formally leaves the EU it is entitled to participate in all EU administrative procedures? Does the Commission believe that this decision could prejudice or prejudice the Brexit negotiations?
2. What action can be taken to mitigate the anxiety and uncertainty caused to the NIAB and its employees by this decision of the Commission?
3. What steps can be taken to ensure a better-managed transfer of DUS testing?