

**Question for written answer E-006626/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Esther de Lange (PPE)

Subject: Drastic decline in flying insects

Last October the scientific journal 'Plos One' published an article in which research demonstrates that the numbers of flying insects have declined by more than 75% over the past 27 years, which could lead to serious ecological problems. Researchers cannot rule out the decrease being related to the use of pesticides.

1. Does the Commission support the findings of the article published recently in the scientific journal 'Plos One',^{1,2} which demonstrates that the number of flying insects have declined by more than 75% over the past 27 years, which could lead to serious ecological problems?
2. If so, what measures does the Commission intend to take to stop this problem? If none, why not?
3. Does the Commission conduct research into the effects of pesticides, approved by the EU, on biodiversity?

¹ <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/oct/18/warning-of-ecological-armageddon-after-dramatic-plunge-in-insect-numbers>

² <http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0185809>