

**Question for written answer E-007188/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
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Subject: EU agencies' independence in evaluating plant protection products

On Thursday 9 November 2017, the EU Member States once again postponed a decision on the future of glyphosate. Their foot-dragging reflects what is effectively a deadlock.

The European Food Safety Authority and the European Chemicals Agency have been accused of basing conclusions about glyphosate on studies provided by agrochemical companies. At the same time, according to a recent investigation by Reuters, the International Agency for Research on Cancer disregarded reputable research indicating that glyphosate was not carcinogenic.

The major worry now has to be about the independence of the EU agencies and of research bodies. It is high time that the EU agencies had sufficient resources to secure their independence: specifically they need a research budget that will enable them to conduct their own studies.

Does the Commission intend to give serious thought to the independence of the EU agencies and of research bodies?