

**Question for written answer E-000713/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Mireille D'Ornano (EFDD)

Subject: Fipronil and amitraz egg scandal

In September 2017, 39 products were identified in France as having fipronil levels higher than the authorised threshold. The Commission's defence is that Belgium did not sound the alarm until 20 July. However, we know that fraudulent use of fipronil dates back to November 2016. The Commission also claims that it did not receive the notification sent by Belgium to the Netherlands as part of the administrative assistance and cooperation system. Under that system, the Commission may act if it is aware of activities that appear to breach legislation. The Commission may, in cooperation with Member States, carry out inspections or ask the Member State concerned to step up its official checks.

1. Why did the Commission have absolutely no information for eight months on several countries' illegal use of fipronil?
2. What is the Commission's explanation for the fact that the French authorities claim not to have received a notification from the rapid alert system for food regarding the traces of a second insecticide, amitraz, found on a number of farms in the EU, and, most importantly, what is its explanation for the fact that, according to France, no recommendation was issued on that matter?