

**Question for written answer E-002862/2018  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Use of Epik insecticides on eucalyptus

Epik neonicotinoid insecticides, whose active ingredient is acetamiprid, are detrimental to the environment and have adverse medium and long-term effects on bees. A number of studies have shown that that Epik SG is harmful and even fatal to bees, attacking the proteins of their nervous system.

Both Epik and Calypso insecticides are being widely used in Portugal to control the *Gonipterus platensis*, a weevil that attacks the *Eucalyptus globulus* (Tasmanian blue gum) in particular. Both insecticides were approved in Portugal, along with other biological agents, as part of a pest control plan implemented between 2011 and 2015.

What view does the Commission take of the use of a neonicotinoid insecticide in the wake of the European Food Safety Authority findings regarding the toxicity of both acetamiprid and imidacloprid and the stated positions of the European Parliament and the Council, which have opposed the use of these substances? What steps will it take to have these products banned in the EU?