

**Question for written answer P-008562/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Angélique Delahaye (PPE)**

Subject: Basic substances with a derogation for use as a biocide awaiting plant-health approval

Pine tar is a product used to protect wood; it acts as a repellent against fungi, bacteria and parasites and seals tree wounds. It was the subject of a 'basic substance' approval application submitted in early 2015 by a French SME. This substance has a derogation for use as a biocide but is still awaiting plant-health approval, which it needs in order to be allowed on the market. The approval decision is based on successive assessments by DG Health and Food Safety, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (SCPAFF). It would appear that the application is causing problems for DG Health and Food Safety, which has still not given its approval.

What is the Commission's explanation for this state of affairs?

What are the difficulties with approving this substance for plant-health purposes, given that derogations exist already for certain Member States, such as Finland and Denmark, which are tolerated by the Commission?

Does the Commission have any other solutions to propose for the use or replacement of this substance?