

**Question for written answer P-001530/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Angélique Delahaye (PPE)

Subject: Admissibility of quassia as a base substance

Quassia extract has traditionally been used in organic agriculture to protect fruit crops and hops from aphids and sawflies. It is essential to fight those parasites, safeguard crops and keep agriculture viable. No alternative to the substance is currently available, and farmers therefore urgently need authorisation for its use to be granted.

There were plans to list quassia as a base substance in EU rules on plant protection products, but since November 2016 the admissibility procedure, which must be issued before the EFSA can approve the substance, has been pending in DG Health.

What is making it difficult for the Commission to complete the assessment of this substance, which began in 2012?

Can it suggest any alternatives to the use of quassia?