

**Question for written answer P-002279/2018  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Bernd Lange (S&D)**

Subject: Bayer-Monsanto merger - divestment of vegetable seed business Nunhems

In the context of the Bayer-Monsanto merger, Bayer recently announced its intention to divest its vegetable seed business Nunhems. Without further ado, Bayer entered into exclusive talks with BASF, which had already signed an agreement back in autumn 2017 to acquire other significant assets as remedies under the antitrust proceedings, giving rise to the following questions:

Can the Commission outline how many eligible bidders with the relevant know-how in seeds are interested in acquiring Bayer's vegetable seed business, but are currently precluded from making an offer due to the exclusive talks between Bayer and BASF?

By what means is the Commission safeguarding a viable competitive landscape in the market for seeds, allowing for freedom of choice for European farmers?

To what extent is the Commission liaising with the US Department of Justice in the ongoing antitrust proceedings, given that the EU and US proceedings are running on parallel tracks?