

**Question for written answer P-002399/2018  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Czesław Adam Siekierski (PPE)**

Subject: Exemption of sugar beet from the proposed ban on the use of neonicotinoids

In the light of studies published recently by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), the Commission is seeking to extend the ban on the use of the three main neonicotinoids to all applications, with the exception of uses in permanent greenhouses.

Given that the results of the EFSA studies point to a link between neonicotinoids and the deteriorating health of honeybees in the EU, restricting the use of these substances appears to be justified, on condition that producers are provided with effective and safe alternatives.

However, there is no justification for banning the use of neonicotinoids in the growing of sugar beet, which does not produce inflorescence and is therefore not an attractive plant for pollinators. Furthermore, because of the way it is sown, sugar beet is highly vulnerable to diseases and pests in the initial stages of development. According to sugar beet growers, a ban on neonicotinoids in seed dressings would result in, among other things, the need for foliar protection of crops against pests. That would entail a significant increase in the use of pesticides, a deterioration in quality, a reduction in crop yields and an increase the cost of cultivation.

Is the Commission planning to exempt sugar beet from the proposed ban on the use of neonicotinoids?