

ЕВРОПЕЙСКИ ПАРЛАМЕНТ    PARLAMENTO EUROPEO    EVROPSKY PARLAMENT    EUROPA-PARLAMENTET  
EUROPÄISCHES PARLAMENT    EUROOPA PARLAMENT    ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟ ΚΟΙΝΟΒΟΥΛΙΟ    EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT  
PARLÉMENT EUROPÉEN    PARLAMENT NA ĚORPA    PARLAMENTO EUROPEO    EUROPA PARLAMENTAS  
EUROPOS PARLAMENTAS    EURÓPAI PARLAMENT    IL-PARLAMENT EWROPEW    EUROPEES PARLEMENT  
PARLAMENT EUROPEJSKI    PARLAMENTO EUROPEU    PARLAMENTUL EUROPEAN  
EURÓPSKY PARLAMENT    EVROPSKI PARLAMENT    EUROOPAN PARLAMENTTI    EUROPA PARLAMENTET

Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

The Chairman

**304026    18.03.2013**

IPOL-COM.ENVI D(2013)11306

Ms. Erminia Mazzoni  
Chair  
Committee on Petitions  
European Parliament  
ASP 08F136

**Subject: Follow-up to the petition N° 1268/2010 concerning plant protection products**

Dear Ms. Mazzoni,

With letter of 17 October 2012, you transferred the abovementioned petition to the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food safety for opinion.

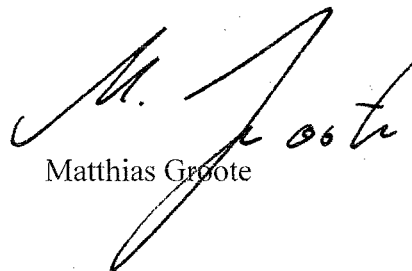
The petitioner, Mr Cristóbal Laza, calls for the following three specific issues related to plant protection products, pests and plant diseases: authorisation of active substances of plant protection products: extension of the accelerated procedure for the assessment of active substances; the control of pests and diseases: increased plant protection control in the EU for pests and diseases from third countries; and reciprocity: elimination within the EU of the concept of "tolerance" towards import of plant protection residues from third countries.

The European Parliament as well, has been active in the field of plant protection products. In January 2009, Parliament adopted a legislative resolution amending the Council's common position for adopting a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the placing of plant protection products on the market. In the end, a second reading agreement was reached, resulting in Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009, which establishes specific rules for minor uses in order to ensure that diversification of agriculture and horticulture is not jeopardised by the lack of availability of plant protection products. The scope and conditions for the application of the accelerated procedure of active substances, as described in Regulation (EC) No 33/2008,

The European Parliament adopted several parliamentary questions related to the topic, which I attach to this letter for your information.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Matthias Groot

Annex: relevant EP activities

## ANNEX - Relevant EP activities

Petition No. 1268/2010 by Cristóbal Laza (Spanish); on behalf of the ASAJA Valencian Farmers' Association, concerning plant protection products, pests and plant diseases.

### 1. Reports and opinions

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&language=EN&reference=P6-TA-2009-11>

Adopted on 13 January 2009

European Parliament legislative resolution of 13 January 2009 on the Council common position for adopting a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the placing of plant protection products on the market and repealing Council Directives 79/117/EEC and 91/414/EEC (11119/8/2008 – C6-0326/2008 – 2006/0136(COD))

### 2. Parliamentary questions

*(Note: for some very recent Parliamentary questions, the written answers from the Commission are not yet available; they can however soon be retrieved online at <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/plenary/en/parliamentary-questions.html>)*

### Questions related to illegal trading in pesticides and counterfeit

#### Parliamentary questions

18 July 2012

E-007208/2012

Question for written answer  
to the Commission

Rule 117

Ulrike Rodust (S&D)

► Subject: European measures against illegal trading in pesticides

 Answer(s)

Current estimates indicate that illegal and counterfeit plant protection products have a market share of 20 % in the EU. According to Europol, moreover, legislation and supervision in this field are hardly harmonised at all and trade in illegal plant protection products is therefore becoming a rapidly growing field of organised crime in Europe.

This situation cannot simply be accepted. In the case of pesticides, counterfeiting can have particularly incalculable consequences for human health and the environment. Agriculture and workers are directly affected, and these products can also endanger the health of European consumers via food.

1. Will the Commission take action in this field and combat trade in illegal plant protection products by means of new legislative proposals?

counterfeit pesticide trade a fast growing area of organised crime.

The organisation has drawn up a series of recommendations in an attempt to halt the phenomenon, including the adoption of a 'comprehensive response' to address the wide spectrum of health and environmental threats associated with this illegal trade and 'a study on the improved traceability of hazardous materials used in the illegal production of pesticides'.

The Commission has already said it will now consider additional mechanisms relating to external border controls in order to prevent the marketing of illegal and counterfeit pesticides.

1. To effectively reduce the threats posed by the illegal trade in pesticides, how will the Commission actually improve the harmonisation of EU policy in this area?
2. Given Europol's recommendations, could the Commission say whether it has already carried out the abovementioned study or whether it intends to do so?

Original language of question: *en*

23 August 2012

Answer given by Mr Dalli on behalf of the Commission

The Commission refers the Honourable Member to its responses to Question

Moreover, with respect to the second question, at present a study 'on the improved traceability of hazardous materials used in the illegal production of pesticides' has not been carried out and the Commission is thoroughly considering the Europol's recommendations.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/plenary/en/parliamentary-questions.html>

## Parliamentary questions

25 January 2012

E-000554/2012

Question for written answer  
to the Commission

Rule 117

Spyros Danellis (S&D)

► Subject: A disturbing increase in 'counterfeit' pesticides in the EU



Answer(s)

According to recently published information, shoddy imitation pesticides and insecticides that could contain banned chemical substances are in circulation and on sale in the EU, endangering the health of farmers and consumers of agricultural products, the environment, natural resources and, ultimately, the safety of farm products themselves. The phenomenon appears to be spreading rapidly and is affecting almost one-quarter of the total number of deliveries and sales in certain EU Member States.

1. Does the Commission have information concerning the Member States in which this problem is particularly acute? Can it give a breakdown by EU Member State of cases that have been confirmed?
2. What conclusions can be drawn from Member States' inability to deal with the problem where it arises?
3. Does it intend to proceed with implementation of coordinated measures throughout the EU so as to uphold the safety of European farm products and the health of EU citizens?

Original language of question: *en*

14 March 2012