Subject: Impact assessment

Given the extremely ambitious targets set out in the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies, I would like to know whether the Commission has carried out an impact assessment for each of the agricultural sectors concerning how these ambitious targets will affect the environment, the economy and social development, and whether that information can be made public.

Answer given by Mr Wojciechowski on behalf of the European Commission
(10 August 2020)

The quantitative targets set in the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies are aspirational targets. Any legislative proposals in that respect will be accompanied by a thorough impact assessment and will be put forward for adoption to the European Parliament and the Council. This will be the case notably for pesticides, where it is envisaged to propose a revision of the Sustainable use of pesticides directive.

The public consultation on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive has been launched and will include the issue of targets. The Inception Impact Assessment is currently published on the Commission website as part of this consultation and is open for public feedback until 7 August 2020.

Climate change and biodiversity loss constitute imminent and lasting threats to food security and livelihoods. The Commission will monitor the transition to a sustainable food system so that it delivers food security and operates within planetary boundaries, including progress on the targets and overall reduction of the environmental and climate footprint of the EU food system.

It will collect data regularly for a comprehensive assessment of the cumulative impact of all actions in this strategy on food security, competitiveness, the environment and health. It will review the Farm to Fork Strategy by mid-2023 and the Biodiversity Strategy by 2024 to assess whether the action taken is sufficient to achieve the objectives or whether additional action is necessary.