

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0997/04  
by Dominique Souchet (NI)  
to the Commission

Subject:           Placing on the market of plant protection products

The Community system for the approval of plant protection products introduced by Directive 91/414/EEC<sup>1</sup> is chiefly based on a system for evaluating the active substances, with a reporting Member State being designated for each substance. This evaluation phase involves collecting studies carried out by plant protection firms themselves and forwarding them to the European Food Safety Authority.

Does the Commission consider that this one-way evaluation procedure makes it possible to ensure that the decision to approve a substance is taken in a sufficiently objective manner?

Furthermore, the protocols envisaged in the studies with a view to assessing the degree of toxicity of substances have not been updated in line with the appearance of new molecules on the market.

Should their specifications not be adjusted to take account of the performance and modes of action of these new substances, as otherwise it will not be possible to ascertain all the potential toxic effects of a new molecule?

The process for evaluating active substances is based on a four-stage system corresponding to four lists of substances.

Given that it is the undertakings concerned that choose which studies are to be carried out as a priority in each of the stages, does the Commission believe that this is the best system for guaranteeing compliance with health and environmental requirements?

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 230, 19.8.1991, p. 1.