

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2646/09
by Johan Van Hecke (ALDE)
to the Commission

Subject: European ban on pesticides

If the draft is approved by the Agriculture Council, the use of a number of pesticides which are harmful to human reproduction and the environment will shortly be banned. The European Parliament adopted the ban in January by a large majority. Scientists fear that this will jeopardise efforts to control malaria. In their view, the new legislation sets a dangerous precedent for regulation of chemicals and fails to take account of risks to health care in developing countries. They consider that it will become more difficult for developing countries to obtain supplies of chemicals because the market for the substances will be reduced.

Is the Commission aware of the risk to health care in developing countries and will it allocate resources to promote the development of safe alternatives?