Question for written answer E-008434/2012
to the Commission
Rule 117
Jean-Luc Bennahmias (ALDE)

Subject: Duration of GMO authorisation studies on the European market

On 19 September 2012, Professor Gilles Séralini's study on the effects of Monsanto's NK603 maize and Roundup which are imported into the European Union, was published in the *Food and Chemical Toxicology* journal. It has relaunched the debate on GMOs. The Commission has asked the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) to analyse the results of this study on 200 rats fed with NK603 maize for two years and showing tumours.

Although the study has been criticised since its publication, questioning its scientific nature, fundamental questions have already been raised before national and European health authorities have delivered their opinions:

1. Why has the Commission never asked the industry or the EFSA for long-term studies – beyond the current standard of three months – to check the hazardousness/harmlessness of GMOs? Given that the effects of GMOs will only be known in the long term, why has no study ever been carried out?

2. How does the Commission explain the fact that a non-governmental study was the first to carry out such an important analysis?

3. Finally, how do we explain to our fellow citizens that GM products have been allowed into the European Union without any efforts to fully study the impact of those products on health and the environment?