

**Question for written answer E-010281/2012
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Struan Stevenson (ECR)

Subject: Ban on the use of thiamethoxam on oilseed rape

A recent review of the M. Henry et al study entitled 'A Common Pesticide Decreases Foraging Success and Survival in Honey Bees', by scientists from the University of Exeter and the UK's Food and Environment Research Agency, refutes the initial results and shows that thiamethoxam does not precipitate the collapse of bee colonies.

It is nevertheless on the basis of the results of the Henry study that France recently banned the use of thiamethoxam (an active ingredient in the pesticide Cruiser OSR) on oilseed rape. M. Henry himself recently recognised that 'substantial improvement is needed before one could use honey bee colony modelling in its current form for risk assessment'.

What does the Commission intend to do to restore the single market in seeds coated with thiamethoxam in the EU?