

**Question for written answer E-001330/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Rareş-Lucian Niculescu (PPE)

Subject: Europe-wide opposition to Patent EP 2140023 B1

On 8 May 2013, the European Patent Office issued a patent (EP 2140023 B1) to Syngenta for insect-resistant pepper plants.

According to a broad alliance of 34 NGOs and farmers' and breeders' organisations from 27 member countries of the European Patent Convention, Syngenta has in fact crossed a wild pepper plant from Jamaica with commercial pepper plants. Since the wild plant is resistant to various pests, the patented resistance already exists in nature.

Given that in May 2012 the European Parliament adopted a resolution calling on the European Patents Office to exclude from patenting products derived from conventional breeding methods, what view does the Commission take of this matter?