

**Question for written answer E-002384/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Gaston Franco (PPE)

Subject: Use of chabazite to combat green algae

For several years now, the coastlines of the French region of Brittany have been overrun by green algae, which originate from excessive concentrations of nitrates. Today, most nitrates are by-products of farming practices, especially when organic or inorganic nitrogen fertilisers are spread over fields, with water loaded with nitrates then flowing from these fields into streams and rivers, and ultimately into the sea.

During the summer of 1998, the same problem befell the Italian region of Tuscany, but with different consequences. By mixing ground chabazite into the feed of their pigs, farmers were able to reduce the amount of ammoniacal nitrogen present in the fertilisers, and thereby considerably cut back on the quantities of harmful substances emitted into the water cycle.

This solution appears even more advantageous given that vast deposits of chabazite can be found in the European Union, specifically in Tuscany.

Not only can chabazite be used in pig feed, it can also be dispersed as granules directly onto the soil. Tests financed by Community funding are currently being performed in Italy.

1. In light of the above, why is there not an information mechanism in place for gathering information when environmental problems strike and for providing solutions to the regions affected?
2. Can Brittany also claim financial assistance from the European Union so that it can conduct its own tests relating to the use of chabazite?
3. Does the Commission know of any other solutions to this problem that involve more environmentally friendly farming practices?