

**Question for written answer E-002950/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
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Subject: Cumulative effects of pesticide residues and conflicts of interest

A recent report published by PAN Europe outlines concerns about the possible effects of exposure to multiple pesticide residues. It claims that the objectivity of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) on this issue has been compromised over a period of many years and that the risks of exposure to multiple pesticides has therefore been underestimated by these official bodies. This means that regulatory policy has favoured the interests of the pesticide industry over consumer health¹.

The report praises the efforts of DG SANCO in addressing conflicts of interest at the EFSA but notes that the situation could be improved further. The report recommends, inter alia, that the Commission prevent industry lobby groups from using EU funding from the framework programme to further the interests of industry.

In view of the above:

1. What action is the Commission taking to ensure that the cumulative effects of multiple pesticide residues are being given due consideration in risk assessments?
2. Are there any measures in place to ensure that EU funding programmes do not support industry lobby groups? If not, will such measures be adopted?

¹ <http://www.pan-europe.info/Resources/Reports/PANE%20-%202014%20-%20A%20Poisonous%20injection.pdf>