

**Question for written answer E-004195/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Julie Girling (ECR)**

Subject: Follow-up on moratorium on neonicotinoids

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 485/2013 restricting the use of three neonicotinoid pesticides has been in force since December 2013. This implementing regulation was proposed in response to a scientific report by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), which identified 'high acute risks' for bees due to exposure to these pesticides.

However, at the same time, the EFSA report identified a number of 'data gaps' which meant that it was not possible to perform complete risk assessments for all authorised uses of these pesticides.

The Commission has proposed to review the conditions of approval of the three neonicotinoids after two years, so as to take into account relevant scientific and technical developments.

Can the Commission confirm what action it is taking to evaluate the impact of the moratorium? It would be useful to know if, and to what extent, the moratorium is proving effective in improving bee health.

In addition, since the moratorium began, farmers have been forced to apply alternative pesticides to crops. Can the Commission confirm that there will be an assessment of the impact of these alternatives on bee health? Since the use of alternatives is a direct impact of the moratorium, such a study is surely necessary in order to contribute to the overall assessment of its effectiveness.