

**Question for written answer E-004602/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Robert Rochefort (ALDE)**

Subject: Effectiveness of the partial ban on three neonicotinoids

In May 2013, the Commission introduced an EU-wide partial ban on plant protection products which contain one of three neonicotinoids (clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam). The restrictions on the use of these products, which cause serious harm to bees and wild pollinators, entered into force on 1 December 2013.

According to data published by the National Union of French Beekeepers (UNAF), however, sales in France of the five neonicotinoids which are most harmful to bees and wild pollinators (acetamiprid, clothianidin, thiamethoxam, imidacloprid and thiacloprid) soared from 387 tonnes in 2013 to 508 tonnes in 2014. Sales of imidacloprid, for example, reportedly rose by 36%.

1. Is the Commission aware of these figures? Does it know of any similar increases in other Member States?
2. Has it assessed the effectiveness of its partial ban on the basis of the need to protect public health and pollinators? If so, has it made its findings public?
3. What steps does the Commission plan to take now and in the future to ensure that Member States comply with the partial ban?