

**Question for written answer E-005046/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Arne Gericke (ECR)

Subject: Bee deaths and the use of pesticides

Bee deaths in the Union have reached dramatic levels and the use of pesticides is in many ways responsible for this development.

1. Pesticide safety assessments are carried out almost exclusively on individual substances. However, mixtures of numerous active agents are also invariably found in the environment, in ecosystems and in beehives. To what extent are comprehensive reviews being considered with regard to the combined effects of such mixtures of active agents or the impact of their interaction?
2. To what extent are individual active agents or mixtures of pesticides tested and monitored in safety assessments, which are not only targeted towards individual organisms (honey bees etc.), but also towards ecosystems, biocenoses or even beehives over long periods (i.e. field studies)?
3. The so-called 'lethal dose' for individual organisms is included in data from the safety assessments. How are general effects investigated, which are not fatal, but have potentially life-threatening effects and therefore cause lasting damage (for example the disturbance of the honey bee's ability to orientate itself due to neonicotinoids)?