Question for written answer E-005944/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: Delay in authorisation of GM soybean products for import in the EU

The subject refers to the ongoing delay in approvals of biotech crops, particularly three GM soybean events which failed to receive a qualified majority at the Appeal Committee of 11 January 2016 and which more than five months later – have still not been approved by the Commission.

Moreover, these events received positive opinions from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) one year ago (May 27 and June 25 2015) and have gone through the Member States committee procedure. These products are: MON87708 x MON89788 (dicamba x glyphosate), MON87705 x MON89788 (high oleic x glyphosate), and FG72 (glyphosate x HPPD). In order to ensure a free flow of trade in soybeans and maize, European farmers, feed processors and traders and exporting countries need to be able to rely on sound science and clear and transparent procedures which follow the agreed legislation.

Taking this context into consideration we would like to know:

1. Is it true that the decisions for authorisation are at the final stage of the procedure?

2. What does that mean in practice, i.e. when could we expect a final authorisation?

3. What is the reason for the delay in approval and what is the time-frame, according to the guidelines, for such a procedure?