

**Question for written answer E-002758/2017  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Marc Tarabella (S&D)**

Subject: Mowing and the EU Ecolabel

Butterflies, bees and other insects are becoming increasingly rare in our surrounding environment. That said, the consequences are increasingly critical for our biodiversity and the balance in our ecosystem.

The growing amount of annual mowing in European pastures is a factor which leads to this increasing scarcity due to the absence of flowers necessary for the life of our insects.

The EU Ecolabel does not yet provide a maximum amount of mowing per year. By doing so, our organic farming which, in many respects, protects the environment, the biodiversity and the balance in our ecosystems, could be harmful because of this legal loophole.

Can the Commission confirm the lack of norms which restrict the amount of mowing as regards the EU Ecolabel?

Does the Commission have an ex-post assessment on the implementation of the EU Ecolabel and of its effects on the environment and the biodiversity?