

Question for written answer E-004490/2018
to the Commission
Rule 130
Beata Gosiewska (ECR)

Subject: Putting an end to the production and sale of products containing glyphosate

The authorisation to place a controversial herbicide containing glyphosate on the EU market was renewed for another five years. While this period is indeed shorter than the usual period of 10 years, this fact is still of great concern to me, especially in the context of a judgment delivered by a San Francisco court on 11 August 2018. The court ruled that Dewayne Johnson, a 46-year old gardener, who has been using Roundup for years, developed cancer of the lymphatic system due to exposure to glyphosate. According to the court, Monsanto (a corporation acquired by the German Bayer Group in July 2018) deliberately concealed data proving that this substance was harmful. Now, the corporation has to pay nearly USD 290 million in damages to the gardener, who has been given two years to live.

Mr Johnson's lawyers are of the opinion that this decision 'shows that there is overwhelming evidence confirming that glyphosate is in fact harmful'.

The German company Bayer plans to lodge an appeal against this ruling. However, if the judgment is upheld, it may trigger a wave of similar decisions.

- 1) Does the Commission plan to look into this issue once more?
- 2) Does the Commission plan to take decisive steps in order to prohibit the production and sales of products that are regularly accused of having a disastrous effect on the environment, killing honey bees and being endocrine disruptors that are detrimental to health?