

**Question for written answer E-000231/2019**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Anne Sander (PPE)**

Subject: Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market

Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009, concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market, has brought about a fundamental change in the EU's system for approving active substances. The type of scientific assessment used up to that point, in which the risks associated with active substances were determined according to exposure levels, has been partly replaced by an approach resting on hazard-based cut-off criteria.

The new approach has served to rule out a higher proportion of pesticides, with the result that high-grade hop production in Europe is being put in jeopardy. Given that they have no alternatives to fall back on, producers are being forced to increase the frequency of treatment and raise the requisite volumes of the few pesticides left.

This in turn strains the mechanisms involved in integrated pest management (IPM) and makes resistance more complicated to deal with. Hop growers and the brewing industry are not, therefore, the only losers: the adverse effects extend also to the environment.

To enable European hop-growing to continue on a sustainable footing, will the Commission, without delay, look again at the approach forming the basis of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 and at the underlying cut-off criteria, in which the intrinsic hazardousness of a product is the sole factor to be taken into account?