

**Question for written answer E-003720/2019  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Daniel Buda (PPE)**

**Subject:** Unfortunately not even apples are what they used to be! Europeans eating apples full of pesticide

A Greenpeace report has revealed that apple growers in a number of European countries are using enormous quantities of pesticide. The main problem arises from growers providing apples in bulk for mass-merchandisers. The highest pesticide content in soils has been detected in countries such as Italy, France or Belgium, while Italy, Poland and Slovenia are among the countries with the highest pesticide levels in water.

Greenpeace has carried out analyses of 85 water samples and 49 soil samples. The substances most frequently identified in the soil samples were Boscalid (a fungicide detected in 38 % of the samples) and the well-known DDT pesticide (detected in 26 % of the samples). The substances most frequently detected in the water samples were the Boscalid fungicide and the chlorantraniliprole insecticide (40 % in each case).

In all, 53 types of pesticide were found in the samples, which were taken from farms in 12 European countries. According to Greenpeace findings, 70 % of pesticides found in apples are either dangerous or very dangerous for human consumption.

What means does the Commission have at its disposal to cut down the excessive use of pesticides in the EU?