

**Question for written answer E-001378/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Ernest Urtasun (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Discretionary use of Article 53 of the Plant Protection Products Regulation for emergency authorisations of pesticides

In recent years too much leeway has been granted with regard to the application of Article 53 of the regulation concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market, which authorises the use of plant protection products in an emergency. Excessive application of this article and the high number of special authorisations granted could distort the spirit of the regulation as a whole. In some cases, the special authorisation referred to in the article is used to justify increasing the permitted concentration of approved products. In others, it is used to justify the export of products, if this is indeed called for in agreements with third countries.

1. Can the Commission say whether the special authorisation of a plant protection product approved for the same use for which it has been authorised falls within the scope of Article 53 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009?
2. In the event that a third country applies for the authorisation of a product in accordance with an agreement concluded with a Member State, does the authorisation of a product not authorised in such an agreement fall within the scope of Article 53 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009?