Question for written answer E-002367/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
Ernest Urtasun (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Monitoring special authorisations

In February 2020, the Commission barred Lithuania and Romania from granting authorisations, which EFSA considered unjustified, for three neonicotinoids (imidacloprid, clothianidin and thiamethoxam).

Announcing this, the new Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, Stella Kyriakides, said publicly that it was the first time a decision of this kind had been adopted in Brussels. She also reiterated the fact that EU legislation only allows emergency derogations for pesticides if strict conditions are met.

Are we to understand that the ban issued by the Commission marks a turning point in the Commission's approach to Member States issuing emergency authorisations? Should we, therefore, expect this to be extended to other substances, and especially those not approved on the basis of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009?

Does the Commission believe that the procedures that were triggered for the neonicotinoids should also be triggered for substances such as 1.3-dichloropropene and chloropicrin, which are authorised every year as a matter of course?

Is the Commission planning to equip EFSA with more material, economic and human resources so it can take on the increased workload involved in monitoring emergency authorisations?