

**Question for written answer E-003494/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Roberta Metsola (PPE)

Subject: Food origin, pesticides and testing

The European Food Safety Authority's report of 2018 on pesticide residues in food showed that samples from Malta exceeded the maximum residue level rate. Investigations into these findings exposed many issues that local farmers are facing, including origin labelling (with foreign produce sold as local) and access to the pesticides that are needed to combat previously unseen fungi and bacteria linked to climate change. Due to the small size of Malta's market, pesticides are often expensive for local farmers to source and companies that manufacture pesticides often do not register their products in Malta. This results in different toolkits for farmers in different Member States. In the light of the Commission's Farm to Fork Strategy which aims both to address food fraud and to reduce pesticide use within the Union, will the Commission address the issues of the mis-selling of food as local, equal access to permitted pesticides and the need for local testing of pesticides?