

**Question for written answer E-004673/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Joanna Kopcińska** (ECR)

**Subject:** Maintaining the food supply chain against the backdrop of increasing COVID-19 infections

The Commission continues to be criticised in the World Trade Organisation's Goods Council for the EU's increasingly stringent approach to pesticide management, which is 'harming the livelihoods of farmers, even beyond its borders'. The negative sentiments expressed in a joint text signed in July 2019 by 16 countries – including the United States, Canada and Australia – which strongly criticised European restrictions on active substances and castigated the EU for its refusal to carry out full scientific risk assessments or to take into account the opinions of other WTO members, show no signs of subsiding.

1. How does the Commission now seek to relax some of its proposed solutions and alleviate the concerns of our international partners regarding its Farm to Fork Strategy, particularly now that food security has become an extremely important issue as Europe experiences an increase in COVID-19 infections and the Member States re-establish protective restrictions in preparation for the second wave of the disease?