

**Question for written answer E-005441/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
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Subject: Difficulties of using plant protection products for minor crops

Plant protection products are validated or registered by the multinationals that place them on the market. These multinationals have no interest in registering minor crops (whose arable area is less than 20 000 hectares for an annual production of less than 400 000 tonnes), because they are not profitable compared with major crops. This affects a number of horticultural varieties in all Member States and territories. In particular, in the Autonomous Community of Navarre, it is difficult to find a plant protection product valid for crop varieties such as artichokes, borage and beans, etc. As a result, these crops are no longer being produced, as the requirements of large processors cannot be met.

Given that the Commission advocates the need to focus on agricultural diversity in its plans:

1. How does the Commission intend to ensure that farmers can continue to grow these minor crops and comply with the rules imposed by Europe via the farm register?
2. What measures will the Commission take to ensure that alternative products are available that comply with European legislation and plans?