

**Question for written answer E-006562/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Robert Biedroń (S&D)

Subject: Authorisation to use neonicotinoids that are harmful to bees in Poland: concerns the answers to question E-005108/2020(ASW) and E-005108/2020

Authorisations were issued in 2018 by the Agriculture Minister contrary to the practice which had existed since 2013 and, moreover, in violation of the law (as confirmed by final court judgments), without a reliable assessment being carried out of the risk to pollinators and despite a previous negative decision by the same authority, issued two months earlier, in view of the content of the EFSA opinion of February 2018. The conclusions from these opinions have been ignored by the minister since July 2018 in all authorisations (most recently in May 2020).

It is reasonable to suspect that there has been no plant protection emergency since July 2018. The authority stated in May 2018 that protection against rapeseed pests, which is covered by the application, is not impossible, but difficult, and that the applicant had not hidden the fact that the authorisations sought were about increasing the profitability of rapeseed.

In 2018, the Environment Minister gave a negative opinion on account of the safety of pollinators, only then to give a 'conditionally favourable' opinion in 2019 and 2020, without providing any reasons. The same was done by the Climate Minister in 2020, recommending a debate on the EFSA's assessments.

In light of the above:

1. Will the Commission ask the EFSA to provide an opinion verifying that authorisations from 2018-2020 were correctly issued, as it did in 2017 in the case of other Member States?
2. Will the Commission issue a decision prohibiting Poland from granting emergency authorisations?