

**Question for written answer E-001190/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Ernest Urtasun (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Plant protection products used in aerial spraying in Spain

Article 9 of Directive 2009/128/EC prohibits aerial spraying except in special cases. It is stipulated in Article 9(5) that the Member States are to ensure that the conditions referred to in Article 9(2) and (3) are met.

Article 9(2) lays down the conditions applying to special cases. These include: (a) the absence of viable alternatives, and (b) the fact that the pesticides used must be approved, etc.

Spain's representative to the Commission is the Directorate-General for Health in Agricultural Production (part of Spain's Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food). In answers it provided on 21 December 2020 (relating to 2019) and 15 January 2021 (relating to 2011-2014), it stated that it has no information about the plant protection products used for aerial spraying in Spain. The only information it has relates to the hectares sprayed, not the products used.

The number of hectares sprayed in Spain has remained stable:

2015->411 784; 2016->347 046; 2017->321 464; 2018->422 188; 2019->362 660.

This suggests that these are not special cases, and that the spraying takes place on a routine, annual basis.

1. Does the Commission take the view that Spain is failing to comply with Directive 2009/128/EC?
2. If so, what is it intending to do to ensure that Spain does comply?