Question for written answer E-002974/2021 to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Ending the export of banned pesticides: concrete actions

In its December 2020 response to the open letter signed by 70 MEPs¹, the Commission acknowledged its international commitment under its Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability to ensure that hazardous chemicals banned in the EU, including pesticides, are not produced for export, and stated that various options are being considered, including a revision of the relevant legislation.

1. What legal actions is the Commission considering? Is it planning to amend the Prior Informed Consent Regulation² or other legislation such as the Plant Protection Products³, Biocidal Products⁴ and REACH⁵ Regulations?

2. Under Farm to Fork Strategy, the Commission committed to ‘take into account environmental aspects when assessing requests for import tolerances for pesticide substances no longer approved in the EU’, and ‘will consider a revision of the Maximum Residue Levels of Pesticides Regulation (396/2005) if necessary’. What action will the Commission take to ensure that import tolerance requests are not approved for pesticides that have been banned in the EU for environmental reasons?

3. Why is the Commission not considering amending the import tolerance definition in the Maximum Residue Levels of Pesticides Regulation⁶ to include environmental aspects (Article 3g)?

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¹ https://www.michele-rivasi.eu/politique/il-faut-en-finir-avec-l-exportation-de-pesticides-toxiques
⁴ Regulation (EU) No 528/2012.