

**Question for written answer E-003329/2021/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Maria Spyraiki (PPE)

Subject: Aerial spraying at the Greek border

The widespread practice of spraying Turkish farmland from the air is a major problem in Evros. Turkey uses pesticides that have been banned by the EU because they are associated with adverse effects on human health through the food chain and through pollution in general. Evidence of this has been obtained by scientific staff after testing large consignments of products of plant origin at random during customs controls at entry/exit points and finding that they are unsuitable for use across Turkey's borders and in the EU.

During aerial application of Turkish farmland, aircraft also manoeuvre over Greek farmland, which, owing to its proximity, is sprayed with a large amount of these pesticides, carried by the wind. This practice poses a major threat to public health, not only for farmers and land workers, but also for consumers.

In view of this:

1. Is there a European framework to protect Member States against environmental impacts caused by third country practices and how is this implemented?
2. Is it possible for the Commission to fund on-the-spot checks in order to establish the extent of the environmental impact of illegal pesticides?
3. Are there any compensation mechanisms and tools for farmers whose production is shrinking and/or being destroyed by this practice?