

**Question for written answer E-003652/2021  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Annika Bruna** (ID)

Subject: Risks of SDHI fungicides

In 2018, a number of French researchers warned of the risks associated with succinate dehydrogenase inhibitors (SDHIs)<sup>1</sup>.

SDHIs are fungicides used to destroy fungi and mould that affect crops. They work by blocking succinate dehydrogenase, an enzyme involved in cellular respiration.

That enzyme is present in a large number of living beings, and the researchers who sounded the warning maintain that SDHIs are also destroying populations of bees, earthworms, nematodes and insects, thereby disrupting the food chain and undermining biodiversity. They also pose a danger to humans, causing nerve damage and cancer.

The French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety (ANSES), however, takes the view that SDHIs do not pose a risk to human health or the environment<sup>2</sup>. ANSES has stated that 'the level of total dietary exposure is low [...] and the maximum residue limits for these active substances are only exceeded in exceptional cases. Furthermore, these substances are rapidly metabolised and eliminated.'

Has the Commission been informed of this difference of opinion? Is it intending to ask the European Food Safety Agency for an opinion?

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.liberation.fr/debats/2018/04/15/alerte-scientifique-sur-les-fongicides\\_1643533/](https://www.liberation.fr/debats/2018/04/15/alerte-scientifique-sur-les-fongicides_1643533/)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.anses.fr/en/content/succinate-dehydrogenase-inhibitor-sdhi-fungicides-anses-presents-results-its-expert>