

**Question for written answer E-004928/2021/rev.1  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Pascal Arimont (PPE)**

**Subject:** Damage caused to organic farms by volatile active substances

In my question E-012163/2015 of 26 August 2015, I drew the Commission's attention to the problems posed by 'volatile' herbicides such as prosulfocarb and pendimethalin. These can move through the air, spreading out over several kilometres. This is particularly problematic for organic farmers, as their products can be contaminated, which ultimately leads to non-marketability of the products, without compensation for the losses incurred. An example of this has recently been recorded in France<sup>1</sup>.

In its reply to my question, the Commission stated that the risk assessment of the relevant substances includes 'an assessment of settling outside the treated area by spray drift or aerial transport following vaporisation'.

1. What consequences does the Commission draw from these events, in particular in the context of the Farm to Fork Strategy, which provides for a significant increase in land for organic farming in Europe, a factor which will exacerbate the problem?
2. Does the Commission intend to prohibit or limit the use of these active substances or call the manufacturers to account in order to prevent the substances spreading beyond the area of application?
3. Does the Commission foresee the possibility of compensation for organic farmers whose harvests are rendered unusable – through no fault of their own – by volatile pesticides?

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.liberation.fr/environnement/agriculture/contaminations-de-cultures-bios-plusieurs-organisations-demandent-une-interdiction-du-prosulfocarbe-20211015\\_J4Zl66D6CZFPTFCIBQS4OG24XE/](https://www.liberation.fr/environnement/agriculture/contaminations-de-cultures-bios-plusieurs-organisations-demandent-une-interdiction-du-prosulfocarbe-20211015_J4Zl66D6CZFPTFCIBQS4OG24XE/)