

**Question for written answer E-005218/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Pascal Arimont (PPE)

Subject: Ban on the export of neonicotinoids

The use of the neonicotinoids imidacloprid, thiamethoxam and clothianidin is banned in the EU. The production of these neonicotinoids is still permitted, and research conducted by 'Public Eye', an NGO from Switzerland, and 'Unearthed', a journalism project supported by Greenpeace¹, has revealed that large-scale exports of these substances are taking place, with almost half of the total amount of exports of banned neonicotinoids from the EU going to Brazil, a country that is of crucial importance for global biodiversity.

The Commission sets out the following actions in its Communication of 14 October 2020 entitled 'Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability': the EU will

'lead by example, and, in line with international commitments, ensure that hazardous chemicals banned in the European Union are not produced for export,

including by amending relevant legislation if and as needed'.

2023 is the provisional date for implementation.

Given that France – the second largest exporter of neonicotinoids banned in the EU after Belgium – has already adopted a national law banning the export of banned pesticides starting next year, does the Commission agree that it is imperative that this measure be brought forward in order to prevent global damage to pollinator populations?

When will the EU impose a ban on the import of food containing traces of neonicotinoids such as imidacloprid, thiamethoxam or clothianidin?

¹ <https://unearthed.greenpeace.org/2021/11/18/revealed-europe-and-the-uks-vast-shipments-of-banned-bee-killing-neonics/>