

**Question for written answer E-005337/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Clara Aguilera (S&D)

Subject: Restricting use of sulfoxaflor to greenhouses only

Sulfoxaflor is an insecticide that is effective against insect pests such as the citrus mealybug (*Planococcus citri*) that attack citrus plants and other crops in southern Europe. Its use was approved by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/1295. Eighteen Member States have registered sulfoxaflor, introducing mitigation measures that ensure it is used safely on crops in the open air. This was confirmed by EFSA's 2019 report, which many scientific studies have endorsed.

The Commission has now presented a proposal to restrict sulfoxaflor's use to greenhouses. Member States will vote on the proposal early in 2022, just a few months before the insecticide's authorisation is due for renewal in August. If the proposal succeeds, it will deprive farmers unnecessarily of a pest control solution for which no alternatives exist, as anyone applying for renewal of the authorisation will have to present scientific evidence guaranteeing its safety before the Commission's decision.

Why has the Commission decided bringing in this revision is so urgent right now, without taking into consideration all the information available on the product's safety?