Every year, more than 60 tonnes of pesticides are used in Paraguay in the growing of transgenic soya crops. Spraying these pesticides, rather than using natural barriers as required by the regulations, contaminates the air and water in the rural areas concerned.

The use of pesticides in soya monocultures causes heavy deforestation, biodiversity collapse and a heightened rural exodus, and is also poisoning local communities, often leading to hospitalisations or even deaths. The following have been observed: nausea and vomiting, skin lesions, fever, dizziness, coughing, leukaemia and lymphoma. An unconfirmed study has even reported genetic mutations in children who live close to these crops.

Contaminated soya is widely exported, especially to Europe, where it can also contaminate our food, whether directly or indirectly (through livestock fed on the contaminated crops). Importing this crop increases our food dependency and is therefore out of step with the ‘Farm to Fork’ strategy.

1. Does the Commission know how much transgenic soya is being imported from Paraguay?

2. Can it provide guarantees that these imports are not contaminated by pesticides?

3. Do European companies produce and sell these pesticides to Paraguay?