

Question for written answer E-000293/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Use of drones for phytosanitary treatments in agriculture

In 2019, the French Ministry of Agriculture and Food authorised a three-year experiment to determine the benefits of using drones for the aerial application of phytosanitary treatments to plots with a slope exceeding or equal to 30%.

Owing to their mapping system and agility, drones can apply treatments with precision and eliminate the risks that farmers usually encounter in disadvantaged and impervious areas, such as steep vineyards and mountainous crop fields.

Drones are able to detect, at an early stage, different types of stress that plants may be under, such as a lack of water, diseases or the presence of parasites, and can then apply the right phytosanitary treatment at the right dose to the various types of crops.

In its 'Farm to Fork' and biodiversity strategies, the Commission has set the objective of converting large areas into land for organic farming, and the use of drones could facilitate this transition. What is more, they would also help farmers with their day-to-day tasks and make their work less dangerous.

In the light of the above:

1. Will the Commission endorse the use of drones in agriculture to carry out phytosanitary treatments in all Member States?
2. Will it introduce rules to regulate the use of drones in its revision of the strategy on the sustainable use of pesticides, which is planned in the 'Farm to Fork' strategy?