

Question for written answer E-001741/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
Laura Ferrara (NI)

Subject: Delays in reforming Directive 2009/128/EC on sustainable use of pesticides

On 23 March 2022 the Commission was due to present its 'nature protection' legislative package, which includes targets for nature restoration in order to halt biodiversity loss in Europe. Minimising the risks associated with chemical pesticides is one of these targets.

According to some draft versions, the Commission was due to set an EU-wide binding target of 50 % pesticide reduction by 2030 so as to keep on course towards achieving green transition as soon as possible.

However, the Commission has now decided, for reasons that are not very clear, to push back the scheduled date for tabling this package, without however setting a new date, leaving legislation on sustainable use of pesticides, which has been awaiting revision since 2009, unchanged.

Many environmental associations and civil society organisations feel, therefore, that pressure from the pesticide industry's agrochemicals lobby may lie behind this deadlock, as the latter are not keen on following the green path.

In view of this:

1. What were the official reasons for the aforesaid legislative proposals being postponed?
2. Has the Commission established in the meantime a precise timeline for the procedures involved in work to reform EU legislation on sustainable use of pesticides?
3. What are the environmental targets and goals for cutting use of pesticides that it is seeking to achieve and in what time frame?