

Question for written answer E-002674/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
Ernest Urtasun (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Placing of plant protection products on the market under 'special circumstances'

Article 53 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market provides that: 'By way of derogation from Article 28, in special circumstances a Member State may authorise, for a period not exceeding 120 days, the placing on the market of plant protection products, for limited and controlled use, where such a measure appears necessary because of a danger which cannot be contained by any other reasonable means.'

1. In the absence of a definition of 'special circumstances', does the Commission consider them to be special plant health circumstances or do they include any other kind, such as a plan to support and research the production of high-quality pre-basic and basic potato seed, given that the United Kingdom's departure from the EU has undermined the supply of some potato varieties?
2. Does it take the view that Brexit is a 'special circumstance' that could trigger exceptional authorisation of neonicotinoid thiamethoxam?
3. With a view to cutting the Member States' excessive discretion in this area, does the Commission plan to provide a definition of 'special circumstances' and 'reasonable means'?