

Question for written answer E-002802/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
David McAllister (PPE)

Subject: Future use of pesticides in Lower Saxony

On 22 June 2022, the Commission proposed new rules to reduce the use and risk of pesticides in the EU in order to achieve the 'farm to fork' strategy's objective of creating a fair, healthy and sustainable food system. The proposals include a ban on the use of all pesticides in 'ecologically sensitive areas' i.e. one that could potentially apply beyond nature conservation areas to all protected areas. Such a ban would affect a large part of the arable land in Lower Saxony, and lead to a significant loss in yield. Many German farmers work in large protected landscape areas. Should these areas be affected by the new rules, the implementation would threaten the existence of these farms.

1. What exactly is meant by 'ecologically sensitive areas' and how are they defined?
2. Which areas in Germany would be added to the list of 'ecologically sensitive areas'?
3. Does the Commission know what impact the new rules will have on agriculture, and how will it ensure that regional farms are still able function economically while reducing their use of pesticides?