Question for written answer E-003088/2022

to the Commission

Rule 138

Bronis Ropé (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Decisions regarding the use of pesticides

In the 2006 Communication from the Commission regarding the European Parliament and Council directive establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides (COM(2006) 372 final) it explained the reason why the framework directive was chosen in this case of regulation: a highly prescriptive Regulation or Directive would not have been appropriate as the starting points for each issue are very different from one Member State to another, e.g. structure of the agricultural sector, climatic and geographical conditions, existing national legislation and programmes.

The fact that structural, geographical and climatic conditions directly affect the use of pesticides is not only consistent with the provisions of practising agronomists, but is also emphasised in the preamble (29) of Regulation No 1307/2007 of the European Parliament and the Council.

In view of this, I would like to ask the Commission:

1. In the Commission’s view, do the statements quoted above, in particular that structural, geographical and climatic conditions influence the use of plant protection products, still apply today?

2. Does the Commission recognise that geographical and climatic conditions and differences in structural and direct support for agriculture still exist in the European Union and that they are important for territory-specific policy decisions?

3. Does the Commission agree that the “one-size-fits-all” principle of the top-down planning approach proposed in the draft Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive is incorrect and needs to be corrected?