

**Question for written answer E-003633/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Trade in illegal pesticides

Plant protection products have become a preferred target for counterfeiters, and the international trade in illegal pesticides now stretches the world over.

The European Union Intellectual Property Office estimates that fake pesticides are losing the EU around EUR 1.8 billion in sales. Europol is also monitoring the counterfeiting of pesticides through Operation Silver Axe, and in the past 5 years has confiscated 1 568 tonnes of illegal pesticides in the European Union. The Office estimates that illegal pesticides now account for 14 % of the European market. The OECD puts the global revenues associated with the trade in illegal pesticides at between USD 6 and 10 billion, making the trade in illegal pesticides one of the leading organised crime activities in the world.

These products are extremely dangerous because their contents are not known, tested or regulated, which is extremely prejudicial to farmers, crops and the environment.

A proactive approach is needed to combat this phenomenon, which affects everyone. Does the Commission have a plan for combating the trade in illegal pesticides?

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