

**Question for written answer E-000715/2023  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Annika Bruna** (ID)

Subject: Ban on imports of sugar from beets treated with neonicotinoids

Following a ruling by the European Court of Justice in January, France has banned the use of neonicotinoid insecticides on sugar beet crops.

This ruling, whilst beneficial for the environment and the health of consumers, is nevertheless worrying for French sugar beet farmers.

To avoid unfair competition, they are asking for a ban on imports of sugar from beets that have been treated with neonicotinoids, including those treated via seed coating.

Will the Commission listen to them?

To compensate for the loss in yields caused by this ban on neonicotinoid insecticides, it is also necessary to rely on more environmentally friendly farming practices, such as:

- crop rotation;
  - hedgerow restoration (to provide a habitat for predatory aphid populations);
  - biocontrol (introducing predatory insects and parasitic fungi);
  - spraying crops with less hazardous products such as paraffin oil.
1. Does the Commission intend to provide the farmers who will further develop these techniques with financial support, covering both their expenditure and any potential income losses?
  2. Furthermore, in order to regulate the prices of beet sugar, does the Commission agree that it would be an appropriate time to reinstate quotas at European level?

Submitted: 2.3.2023