

**Question for written answer E-001096/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Gianna Gancia (ID)

Subject: Derogations for active substances and sustainability in European agriculture

The Farm to Fork strategy requires there to be a 50 % reduction in synthetic agricultural drugs by 2030, which is creating problems for the fruit and vegetable market in cases where viable pest control alternatives are available. The HRI1 risk indicator penalises potential substitute substances granted by way of derogation and products used in organic farming.

There is a need to implement environmentally sustainable protection strategies and cultivation techniques in line with the European objectives of the environmental and economic sustainability of agricultural holdings. Increased funding for research and experimentation in agriculture is crucial for fostering regional networks and supporting businesses involved in the innovation process.

Research into resistance/tolerance to key pests and giving free rein to Assisted Evolution Techniques (AET) are essential when it comes to selecting plants suitable for the sustainable production of healthy and nutritious food.

Given the above, can the Commission state:

1. Whether it will consider granting derogations for the use of essential active substances, pending the arrival on the market of like alternatives?
2. Whether it will increase funding for applied research and experimentation in agriculture, while promoting regional networks and supporting businesses in the innovation process?
3. Whether it will focus on research into resistance/tolerance to key pests and give free rein to AETs, reclassifying them as not being techniques for obtaining Genetically Modified Organisms?

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