

**Question for written answer E-001300/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Danilo Oscar Lancini (ID)

Subject: Rice production and tricyclazole limits

The European Food Safety Authority recently discussed the possibility of raising the import tolerance for tricyclazole in rice from 0.01 mg/kg to 0.09 mg/kg.

Although currently banned for our rice growers, this fungicide is used in third countries from which the EU imports rice.

The recent ninefold increase in the maximum residue level (MRL) will likely inflict direct damage on a sector in which Italy's 1.5 million tonnes of produce account for almost half of European production, meaning that not only consumer health but also European competitiveness is at stake.

In view of the above and the observations that a number of governments have already submitted, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Is it considering suspending the procedure it has launched until a reciprocity clause is in place to safeguard the competitiveness of European producers?
2. What did it make of the readmission of this fungicide, given its presence in the water cycle and the health implications for European consumers?
3. Rather than backtracking on the increase, might it be possible to extend the raised tricyclazole MRL – temporarily and exceptionally – to European growers too?

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