

**Question for written answer E-001772/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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**Subject:** Data on pesticide use per crop type

The Sustainable Use of Pesticides Regulation (SUR) proposal<sup>1</sup> is aimed at achieving two EU-wide targets by 2030, namely a 50 % reduction in the overall use of chemical plant protection products and the associated risk and a 50 % reduction specifically in the use of the more hazardous products.

According to the SUR impact assessment, the targets are based on product sales because data on actual pesticide use is not available at EU level.

A 2022 report by Statistics Netherlands (CBS)<sup>2</sup> investigating crops under protection highlighted that the lily bulb had the highest pesticide intensity in 2020, with 114 kg of pesticide used per hectare.

Furthermore, greenhouse-cultivated chrysanthemum and rose bulbs were respectively treated with 52 kg and 40 kg of pesticide. The cultivation of seed potatoes, apples and pears was between 82.5 % and 70 % less pesticide-intensive than that of the lily bulb.

It is alarming that pesticides are actually used most intensively for flowers rather than for the crops grown by farmers, who will be forced to make the greatest effort to achieve the EU targets, thus jeopardising food security.

- 1) Can the Commission provide data on pesticide use per crop type?
- 2) If this data is unavailable, will it launch a study to identify the pesticide intensity according to the different crop types?

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<sup>1</sup> Commission proposal of 22 June 2022 for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the sustainable use of plant protection products and amending Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 (COM(2022)0305).

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cbs.nl/en-gb/news/2022/02/less-pesticide-used-in-agriculture>.