

**Question for written answer E-001967/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Annika Bruna (ID)

Subject: Tackling EFSA assessment delays

In early June, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) issued its conclusions on flutolanil, a fungicide used on potatoes, iris and tulips. EFSA concluded that this substance 'is not an endocrine disruptor for humans and non-target organisms', which is welcome news.

However, EFSA experienced delays and could not fully finalise some consumer and worker risk assessments.

Flutolanil is one of a dozen substances for which assessments have been delayed for a number of years. The Commission responded to these delays by extending the substances' approval periods in 2021¹ and then again in 2023².

As these are plant protection products, which must be fully assessed in order to guarantee consumer safety and legal and financial security for industries and farmers, these delays carry serious risks.

In view of the above, we invite the Commission to answer the following questions:

1. For what reasons are the substance assessments delayed?
2. In the future, will EFSA have the necessary resources to carry out comprehensive assessments on time?

Submitted: 19.6.2023

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32021R0052>

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32023R0114>