

Question for written answer E-002153/2023
to the Commission
Rule 138
Gianna Gancia (ID)

Subject: Director-General of the FAO

According to press reports, FAO officials have been railing at a radical change since the new Director-General, Qu Dongyu, took office in August 2019, from when he has been kowtowing to Chinese interests, especially as regards deliveries of pesticides banned in Europe owing to their toxicity. It also seems that Qu has tethered the organisation more closely to China, for example by assigning important posts to officials from his home country, which has seen its share of FAO directors increase from two to six.

To cap it all, Qu is to apply for a second term as Director-General of the FAO in early July 2023, with all the challengers having already withdrawn from the race, while it also seems that Europe and the United States did not put forward any candidates.

In light of the above, can the Commission state:

- 1) whether it is aware of these deliveries of banned pesticides to the EU and, if so, whether it has been monitoring their distribution in the Member States;
- 2) whether it can corroborate the fact that the EU did not put forward a candidate for the position of Director-General of the FAO and, if so, why this was the case;
- 3) how many FAO directors there are from Europe as compared to directors from China, and which Member States they are from?

Submitted: 6.7.2023