

**Question for written answer E-002291/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Costs to citizens of different agricultural production methods

When applying the polluter pays principle<sup>12</sup>, what measures does the Commission take to monitor the list of externalities (hidden costs) of conventional agricultural production methods and who bears these costs today: public services, pesticide manufacturers and users, citizens?

In the impact assessment<sup>3</sup> to prepare the proposal for a legislative framework on sustainable food systems, the Commission notes that the failure to reflect externalities in the price or cost of foods creates a situation that is favourable to unsustainable practices. How, and using which indicators, will the Commission improve this situation through its regulatory proposal and in particular by giving consumers the appropriate tools to integrate these objectives?

Based on the existing studies on externalities, can the Commission confirm that negative externalities involving water pollution and farmers' health (occupational diseases), among other things, indicate that production models using chemical fertilisers and synthetic pesticides are more costly for citizens? Can it confirm that it is providing adequate support to farmers to enable them to cope with the transition?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:12012E/TXT>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/SR21\\_12/SR\\_polluter\\_pays\\_principle\\_EN.pdf](https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/SR21_12/SR_polluter_pays_principle_EN.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [https://food.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-02/f2f\\_legis\\_ia\\_fsfs\\_5902055.pdf](https://food.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-02/f2f_legis_ia_fsfs_5902055.pdf)