

Question for written answer E-002527/2023
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Adapting EU legislation to the development of autonomous farm machinery

EU regulations require permanent supervision of vehicles and robots, i.e. a person must always be in direct control of the machine or must supervise it remotely.

However, this framework could restrict the development of new autonomous farm machinery driven by artificial intelligence, such as the 'LaserWeeder', a robot developed by US company Carbon Robotics that uses lasers to kill weeds.

In fact, autonomous vehicles and drones that use artificial intelligence are being developed all around the world to address environmental challenges (reduce use of pesticides and fertilisers, reduce water consumption), and to tackle labour shortages and the ageing of the farming population.

These agri-tech innovations could allow us to maintain or even increase agricultural yields, while significantly reducing pollution and waste.

Is the Commission putting in place the necessary measures within the EU to facilitate the marketing authorisation for this type of machinery with a view to ensuring that it does not encounter any regulatory barriers?

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