

**Question for written answer E-003529/2023  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Annika Bruna** (ID)

Subject: Getting biological control products on the market more quickly

Biological control refers to various natural methods used to protect crops. For example, the use of:

- microorganisms (fungi that infect insects or other arthropods);
- macro-organisms (insects, mites, nematodes or other invertebrates);
- chemical mediators, such as pheromones;
- oils, clays or mineral powders.

These methods enable us to significantly reduce the use of pesticides and subsequently minimise their impact on the environment and our health.

However, at a hearing in the French National Assembly on 8 November 2023<sup>1</sup>, the Head of the Risk Assessment Production Department of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) stated that the creation of around 50 additional posts in their agency would enable biological control products to be assessed and then allowed on the market more quickly.

1. Will the Commission allow the EFSA to recruit the staff it needs in order to assess and place biological control products on the market more quickly?
2. What measures will it take to encourage our farmers to learn about and use these products?

Submitted: 1.12.2023

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<sup>1</sup> [https://videos.assemblee-nationale.fr/video.14240175\\_654b845100560.impacts-des-produits-phytosanitaires-sur-la-sante-humaine-et-environnementale--mm-didier-guillaume-8-novembre-2023](https://videos.assemblee-nationale.fr/video.14240175_654b845100560.impacts-des-produits-phytosanitaires-sur-la-sante-humaine-et-environnementale--mm-didier-guillaume-8-novembre-2023).