

**Question for written answer E-003674/2023/rev.1  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Anja Hazekamp** (The Left)

Subject: Regulators and pesticide manufacturers have a lobby get together at the Christmas market

On 5 December 2023, the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE) organised a 3-day workshop on zonal authorisation of pesticides in Braunschweig, with commercial stakeholders and EU Member State representatives<sup>1</sup>. No environmental organisations or consumer organisations were invited. DG SANTE is presenting advantages to commercial stakeholders and withholding them from those representing the public. In addition, the meeting was only made public two weeks beforehand (on 17 November 2023 in the Advisory Group), while the industry had already been invited in February 2023.

1. Does the Commission agree that Article 36(1) of the Pesticide Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 and Article 6(2) of the General Food Law Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 provide for an independent, objective and transparent assessment as a basis for decision-making, and that dealing with industry behind closed doors is a violation of these rules?
2. Why did DG SANTE disregard the 'don'ts' of the European Ombudsman's recommendations in case SI/7/2016/KR, which are classified as maladministration (e.g. 3. 'Interact with a particular interest representative without considering offering other groups a similar opportunity' and 6. 'Accept or arrange meetings outside office hours and official premises')?
3. What was the outcome of the Braunschweig meeting?

Submitted: 14.12.2023

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<sup>1</sup> Artikel, 'Follow the Money': <https://www.ftm.eu/articles/christmas-market-regulators-and-pesticides-producers>.