

**Question for written answer E-000471/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Ending imports of products containing residues of banned pesticides such as thiacloprid

An insecticide of the neonicotinoid family, thiacloprid is used to kill aphids or Colorado beetles in fruit and vegetable crops, particularly beetroot.

It was banned throughout the European Union in 2020 because of its impact on pollinators and because it is considered to be reprotoxic, an endocrine disruptor and probably carcinogenic to humans.

However, it is still used in third countries, which then export fruit and vegetables containing thiacloprid residues to the EU. This trade therefore constitutes unfair competition against our own farmers, who are subject to stricter and more costly health and environmental rules.

In response to the legitimate anger of farmers, the French Prime Minister recently announced a ban on imports into France of products treated with thiacloprid. Other Member States are expected to commit to similar measures in the near future.

To help them meet their promise, will the Commission propose a reform to improve checks on compliance with maximum residue limits for plant protection products in imports, as current border controls are too often limited to checking certificates issued only by the authorities of exporting countries?

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