

**Priority question for written answer P-000254/2023  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Gilles Lebreton (ID)**

Subject: Prohibition of coating beetroot seeds

On 19 January 2023 the Court of Justice of the European Union decided to no longer allow Member States to depart from the regulation banning the use of seeds treated with neonicotinoid products. French law does not permit the use of these products in spraying, and beetroot planters are at a total loss with the sowing campaign just weeks away. They estimate that, without an urgent solution to combat leaf yellowing, only 300 000 hectares will be cultivated, rather than the usual 400 000, with estimated losses ranging from 30 to 75% of the total harvest.

1. In order to avoid a situation in which French production suffers from unfair competition, can the Commission guarantee that none of the Member States will continue to coat seeds with neonicotinoids?
2. Can the Commission guarantee that sugarcane-based products imported from third countries will comply with European environmental standards, particularly as regards deforestation?
3. What urgent solutions and what compensation is the Commission considering for beetroot farmers, for whom the situation is dire?

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