

**Priority question for written answer P-003567/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Claude Gruffat (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Alternative methodologies that take better account of biodiversity than the Product Environmental Footprint (PEF) in relation to green claims

Substantiating green claims is crucial to reduce greenwashing. One methodology used for this purpose, the Product Environmental Footprint (PEF), severely penalises products derived from extensive agriculture. The PEF is strictly based on life cycle analysis and fails to take into account positive and negative externalities, which means that the impact of pesticides or repercussions on biodiversity are not taken into account, or not correctly.

The Commission has tried to include biodiversity as a factor in the PEF methodology by considering it in the Life Cycle Assessment (LCA). Methodologies must take account of biodiversity in order to deliver reliable and comprehensive environmental results, but assessing biodiversity only in the LCA will systematically lead to misleading results: in general, the more intensive a system is, the 'better' it seems to be for biodiversity. Moreover, this leads to incorrect results, for example, with regard to fishing: irrespective of the type of fishing, its impact on biodiversity remains similar.

Is the Commission considering alternative methodologies to the LCA to integrate biodiversity into the PEF, in order to bring this methodology in line with the objectives of the European Green Deal and planetary boundaries?

Submitted: 6.12.2023