

**Question for written answer E-015667/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Jytte Guteland (S&D)

Subject: Flupyradifuron and bee health

On 18 November 2015, the Commission approved for 10 years the placing on the European market of the active substance flupyradifuron. The insecticide flupyradifuron is a neonicotinoid which penetrates the surface of plants and is absorbed into all plant tissue, including leaves, flowers, roots, pollen and nectar.

The impact of flupyradifuron on plants is similar to that of other neonicotinoids, which have been shown by various scientific studies to be harmful to the central nervous systems of pollinating insects and to have caused paralysis and ultimately death. Serious problems have therefore affected Europe's bee communities and pollination by them. Reduced pollination damages Europe's biodiversity and food production.

Previous scientific studies of flupyradifuron have shown that the substance caused changes in bee behaviour and increased honey bee mortality.

1. In view of the serious situation that exists, in which Europe's bee communities are threatened with mass death, which has previously been attributed to the use of neonicotinoids in pesticides, does the Commission consider it defensible to approve the placing of flupyradifuron on the European market?
2. When will the Commission perform a proper scientific examination of flupyradifuron and its impact on the health of pollinating insects?
3. Will the Commission seek a total ban on the use of neonicotinoids in the EU?