

**Question for written answer E-003396/2025/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Asger Christensen (Renew)

Subject: National ban on 23 pesticide products

Denmark has recently decided to introduce a national ban on 23 pesticide products due to the risk of groundwater contamination. It is the only EU Member State to do so.

The protection of groundwater is of fundamental importance, and this objective is fully recognised. However, the principle of proportionality, under both Danish and EU law, requires that regulatory measures be proportionate to their objectives, and that less burdensome alternatives be considered before imposing drastic restrictions.

Farmers, and in particular Danish potato growers, are facing severe consequences as a result of this decision, as there are currently no realistic alternatives to replace the banned products. This could threaten the viability of an entire sector, while potentially creating competitive disadvantages for Danish farmers compared to their European peers.

In the light of this, can the Commission clarify the following:

1. Has it assessed whether the Danish authorities have complied with the principle of proportionality in adopting this ban?
2. Does it know whether Denmark has carried out a comparison with less restrictive alternatives, and if so, what is the Commission's view on those findings?
3. Does it have information on whether a socio-economic impact assessment has been conducted, particularly concerning the potato sector, which is disproportionately affected?

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