

**Question for written answer E-003895/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Barbara Bonte (PfE)

Subject: Relevance of biocides for farmers: response to the statement by DG SANTE

During the ENVI meeting on 22 September 2025, Mr Berend, Director for Food Safety, Sustainability and Innovation at DG Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE), responded to the intervention by MEP Bonte. He stated that the link with agriculture in her question about biocides was not relevant and therefore did not address it. In his view, biocides are not relevant to agriculture. However, this approach is difficult to reconcile with both EU legislation and practice.

The Biocidal Products Regulation (EU) No 528/2012 regulates the use of biocides in the Union. The main farmers' representative in Flanders and East Belgium – the *Boerenbond* (Farmers' Union) – emphasises that biocides are indispensable in the sector, particularly in disinfectants for greenhouses, stables and buildings, but also in rodenticides, cleaning agents for milking equipment, hoof care products, udder disinfectants and insecticides.

Since 2024, a mandatory biocidal products register has been in place for farmers active in animal production, which requires such farmers to record every use they make of such products. At the same time, farmers face high costs and are hindered by limited choice, as generic biocides are often unavailable or arrive too late.

Could the Commission therefore explain the following:

1. On what basis did Mr Berend (DG SANTE) make his statement/reject the link with agriculture?
2. What measures are being taken to prevent data protection rules from hindering the authorisation of generic biocides and thereby driving up prices artificially?
3. What steps are being taken to reconcile commercial interests with affordable and safe biocides for farmers?

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