

Question for written answer E-005010/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Export of banned toxic substances

The EU continues to export cyanamide to vineyards in South Africa, when this substance is banned in the Union owing to its serious health risks. Research has shown that some workers who have handled the product without adequate protection have suffered lung damage. NGOs have condemned the situation as a human rights scandal, but the South African authorities argue that the wine industry depends on this product and there are no equally-effective alternatives. Although the Commission pledged as early as 2020 to stop exports of toxic pesticides to third countries, it has not yet taken any concrete action¹.

1. Given that the EU banned cyanamide precisely to protect human health, how can it justify that substance continuing to be produced in the EU and being exported to third countries?
2. Why is the Commission allowing the use of this banned substance in the production of agricultural goods that may subsequently enter Europe, especially as farmers and citizens are demanding the application of equivalent safety and production standards?
3. How can the Commission ensure that no imported product contains substances classified as dangerous for EU citizens and thus guarantee the consistency and credibility of EU consumer protection policies?

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¹ <https://www.euractiv.com/news/eu-exports-of-banned-chemical-sparks-outcry-in-south-african-vineyards/>