Question for written answer E-000131/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Christine Singer (Renew), Ciaran Mullooly (Renew), Herbert Dorfmann (PPE), Stefan Köhler (PPE), Sandro Gozi (Renew), Diana Iovanovici Şoşoacă (NI), Elsi Katainen (Renew), Katri Kulmuni (Renew), Jan-Christoph Oetjen (Renew)

Subject: European cereal growers' ability to control key weeds

European cereal growers are increasingly struggling to control grassy weeds such as blackgrass. Rising resistance and the loss of effective herbicides limit available options. As blackgrass produces large amounts of seed, farmers need high levels of control, yet mechanical measures like ploughing often prove to be insufficient in preventing their emergence the following season. If left unmanaged, these weeds can cause major yield losses, threatening economic viability and security of supply.

In March 2025, the primary herbicide for controlling blackgrass received a non-renewal decision. Therefore, considering the grace periods, farmers may already lack effective control solutions in 2026. The seriousness of the situation was highlighted by French agriculture minister Annie Genevard, who promised full use of the grace period due to the lack of alternatives currently available.

Meanwhile, the UK registered two innovative herbicides in 2022 and 2024, one of which is available to farmers. Both products were submitted for approval in the EU and the UK in 2018. Although the UK still applies the same approval criteria, its process has advanced much faster than that in the EU.

1. When can EU farmers expect access to these innovative products?

2. What are the reasons behind the delays in the EU system, and how will the Commission improve the functioning of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009[1] to accelerate access to innovation?

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[1] OJ L 309, 24.11.2009, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2009/1107/oj.