

**Priority question for written answer P-003636/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Counterfeit and illegal pesticides

In 2015, the Commission's Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety published an ad hoc study on the trade of illegal and counterfeit pesticides in the EU, which estimated that such products accounted for approximately 10 % of the total EU plant protection product market. The study also included 17 recommendations for addressing the issue and improving enforcement.

1. Could the Commission indicate which of these 17 recommendations have been implemented over the past decade?
2. In 2023, as part of Europol's joint operation Silver Axe, participating law enforcement authorities seized 2 040 tonnes of counterfeit or illegal pesticides, arrested 21 suspects, and dismantled several production sites, an increase compared to the 1 150 tonnes seized in 2022. Is the Commission considering launching a follow-up study to assess the current scale of the problem in the EU, including whether the prevalence of illegal and counterfeit products has increased or decreased since 2015? Such a study could also propose updated recommendations to strengthen enforcement, enhance cross-border cooperation, and address remaining legislative and operational loopholes.

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