

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000041/25
to the Commission
Lynn Boylan (The Left)
(8 January 2025)**

Subject: Sustainable use of pesticides and vulnerable groups

Article 12 of Directive 2009/128/EC on the sustainable use of pesticides requires Member States to ensure that the use of pesticides is minimised or prohibited in certain areas. This includes areas used by vulnerable groups which, as per the definition in Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009, include residents subject to high pesticide exposure over the long term.

1. Do Member States have an obligation to investigate complaints relating to the misuse of pesticides in specific areas, including where such complaints come from members of a vulnerable group?
2. Has Ireland notified the Commission of any process or entity whereby vulnerable groups can make a complaint about the misuse of pesticides in specific areas?
3. Does the Commission provide any recommendations to Member States on responding to complaints about pesticide use from vulnerable groups?

Submitted: 8.1.2025

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(11 March 2025)**

Article 17 of the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive ⁽¹⁾ requires that Member States shall determine penalties applicable to infringements of the national provisions adopted pursuant to this directive and shall take all national measures necessary to ensure that they are implemented.

The Irish National Action Plan for the Sustainable Use of Pesticides required by Directive 2009/128/EC states that the national regulations give effect to this directive's restrictions on the use of pesticides in areas used by the general public or by vulnerable groups as defined in Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009.

The Irish Department of Agriculture and Food is responsible for investigating all pesticide-related complaints under the applicable legislative framework.

The Commission does not provide any specific recommendations to Member States on responding to complaints about pesticide use received from vulnerable groups. Member States have a primary responsibility to monitor the application of the relevant legal provisions and to take the necessary steps for enforcement. In its role as guardian of the Treaties, the Commission will continue monitoring the situation and may decide to take appropriate action.

⁽¹⁾ Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides.