

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000334/25
to the Commission
Nicolae Ștefănuță (Verts/ALE)
(26 January 2025)**

Subject: Romania's derogations for banned neonicotinoids

Romania's decision to continue granting emergency derogations for banned neonicotinoids, despite the 2023 ruling of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) prohibiting exceptions, raises concerns for both environmental protection and EU law enforcement. These pesticides pose a severe threat to pollinator populations, undermining the EU's commitment to biodiversity and sustainable farming.

1. Given that the CJEU ruling explicitly prohibits derogations for banned pesticides, how does the Commission plan to address Romania's continued authorisation of neonicotinoids, including the possibility of infringement proceedings, preventing a precedent for other Member States, and ensuring trust in the uniform enforcement of EU environmental law?
2. What steps will the Commission take to protect pollinator populations and support sustainable pest management alternatives in light of the continued neonicotinoid derogations, which threaten biodiversity and food security across the EU?
3. Are alternatives to neonicotinoids, such as biological control, integrated pest management, organic pesticides, and precision agriculture technologies, economically viable and accessible to EU farmers, and what actions will the Commission take to ensure their affordability and implementation across the EU?

Submitted: 26.1.2025

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(30 July 2025)**

Emergency authorisations are the responsibility of Member States, and it is primarily the role of their judicial systems to ensure compliance with applicable rules.

However, the Commission considers the emergency authorisations granted by Romania for outdoor uses of products containing restricted neonicotinoids is not compliant with Article 53 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 ⁽¹⁾ as interpreted by the Court of Justice of the European Union, and it continues its efforts to ensure Romania's compliance with the applicable rules.

Biocontrol solutions are available as alternative to chemical pesticides and their number increases. In the Vision for Agriculture and Food ⁽²⁾, the Commission announced its intention to further speed up market access for biocontrol products.

According to the directive on the Sustainable Use of pesticides ⁽³⁾, farmers must implement integrated pest management (IPM), which entails the use of preventive measures, biocontrol products, and, as a last resort, chemical pesticides for which the amount needed can be reduced with precision application techniques. Horizon Europe funds several projects ⁽⁴⁾ to support IPM.

IPM can be supported, depending on the design of the common agricultural policy (CAP) Strategic Plans of a Member State, by the CAP which also provides specific support for organic farming through direct payments (eco-schemes), rural development measures and others, but also for advisory services and knowledge exchange on ecologically friendly practices that reduce reliance on pesticides.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 309, 24.11.2009, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS A Vision for Agriculture and Food Shaping together an attractive farming and agri-food sector for future generations COM/2025/75 final.

⁽³⁾ 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 OJ L 309, 24.11.2009, p. 71-86.

⁽⁴⁾ See research and innovation under the EU Research Framework Programme Horizon Europe to support sustainable plant protection, such as IPMWorks project <https://ipmworks.net/>. More information available in the AgriResearch factsheet on plant health: https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/document/download/e8a5772e-9fca-4583-a81b-649729068f1e_en. More information available in the AgriResearch factsheet on ecological approaches and organic farming: https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/document/download/4ae48c83-5852-4d7a-8892-718a02d29595_en, and Co-funded partnership on Agroecology: <https://www.agroecologypartnership.eu/>.