

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000835/25
to the Commission
Esther Herranz García (PPE)
(25 February 2025)**

Subject: Use of plant protection products in Member States

Mushroom growers in La Rioja (Spain) have been grappling with invasive fungus *Cladobotryum mycophilum* since 2021. The fungus spreads quickly and has developed resistance to the few authorised plant protection products available to producers to keep it in check. The situation is leading to production losses, generating economic — and social — problems in mushroom-growing regions.

The sector is aware that national authorities in other Member States with the same problem have used the fungicide Geoxe, which is authorised for other crops. The fungicide is not approved in Spain, however.

In light of the above:

1. Is the Commission planning to reform legislation to guarantee the same conditions for producers in the 27 Member States and allow the EU-wide use of plant protection products approved by authorities in any EU country?

Submitted: 25.2.2025

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(6 May 2025)**

Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 ⁽¹⁾ sets up harmonised rules as regards the placing of plant protection products (PPPs) on the market. Based on this legal framework and the subsidiarity principle, every Member State is responsible for the assessment and authorisation of each use of PPPs in its jurisdiction.

Several provisions in Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 provide possibilities for authorising in Member States PPPs already authorised in other Member States, namely zonal authorisation ⁽²⁾ (Art. 36), mutual recognition (Art. 40), or minor uses extensions (Art. 51).

In the absence of applications by a company, mutual recognition can also be initiated by third parties (such as grower organisations or official bodies in Member States).

In addition, Member States can grant emergency authorisations for PPPs that have no regular authorisation where this is necessary to combat a danger to plant health that cannot be contained by any other reasonable means (Art. 53).

Lastly, as set out in the Vision for Agriculture and Food ⁽³⁾, the Commission is aware of the need to provide for new active substances of PPPs in order to secure the long-term resilience of farming, nature and health protection.

Accordingly, the Commission intends to propose measures that accelerate the access for biocontrol agents into the EU market.

⁽¹⁾ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2009/1107/oj>

⁽²⁾ Member States are grouped in three zones: Northern, Central, Southern as set out in Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0075>