

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003396/25
to the Commission
Asger Christensen (Renew)
(3 September 2025)**

Subject: National ban on 23 pesticide products

Denmark has recently decided to introduce a national ban on 23 pesticide products due to the risk of groundwater contamination. It is the only EU Member State to do so.

The protection of groundwater is of fundamental importance, and this objective is fully recognised. However, the principle of proportionality, under both Danish and EU law, requires that regulatory measures be proportionate to their objectives, and that less burdensome alternatives be considered before imposing drastic restrictions.

Farmers, and in particular Danish potato growers, are facing severe consequences as a result of this decision, as there are currently no realistic alternatives to replace the banned products. This could threaten the viability of an entire sector, while potentially creating competitive disadvantages for Danish farmers compared to their European peers.

In the light of this, can the Commission clarify the following:

1. Has it assessed whether the Danish authorities have complied with the principle of proportionality in adopting this ban?
2. Does it know whether Denmark has carried out a comparison with less restrictive alternatives, and if so, what is the Commission's view on those findings?
3. Does it have information on whether a socioeconomic impact assessment has been conducted, particularly concerning the potato sector, which is disproportionately affected?

Submitted: 3.9.2025

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

According to Article 44 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 ⁽¹⁾, Member States may review authorisations of plant protection products (PPP) at any time and, as a result of such review, must withdraw or amend them where the requirements in Article 29 of that regulation are no longer fulfilled. Member States must immediately inform the holder of the authorisation, the other Member States, the Commission and the European Food Safety Authority.

In the particular case referred to by the Honourable Member, Denmark has indeed informed the Commission about the recent withdrawal of authorisations of PPPs containing certain Per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) active substances ⁽²⁾. Denmark based its decisions on its assessment that the use of the products would lead to contamination of groundwater with trifluoroacetic acid (TFA). The Danish competent authority consulted the relevant authorisation holders and considered additional information provided by them before reaching the decisions.

Under the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009, the powers to issue, amend or withdraw the authorisations of PPPs is entirely under the responsibility of the Member States, who must act in compliance with Union law, including with the principle of proportionality ⁽³⁾. However, neither Article 44 nor any other provision in Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 require Member States to carry out a socioeconomic impact assessment.

The Commission is not aware of any comparative assessment or of any socioeconomic consideration undertaken by Denmark. The Honourable Member may wish to contact the Danish national competent authorities for further information.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market and repealing Council Directives 79/117/EEC and 91/414/EEC (OJ L 309, 24.11.2009, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2009/1107/oj>).

⁽²⁾ Diflufenican, flonicamid, fluazinam, fluopyram, mefentrifluconazole and tau-fluvalinate.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/glossary/principle-of-proportionality.html>.