

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003533/25
to the Commission
César Luena (S&D)
(15 September 2025)**

Subject: Standstill in reducing pesticide use in the EU

Regulating and reducing pesticide use in the EU was a core pillar of the European Green Deal. However, the Commission withdrew its proposal to halve pesticide use by 2030, citing a lack of political consensus and protests from the agricultural sector. The announcement of this withdrawal mentioned that a new proposal would be developed with more involvement from primary sector employees. However, some members of the Commission have dismissed measures of this kind in statements, and no concrete progress appears to have been made on this new legislation.

In the light of the above:

1. Does the Commission remain committed to reducing pesticide use and does it plan to present a new legislative proposal that would take farmers' demands into account this time, or, on the contrary, does the Commission intend to leave the issue on hold indefinitely?
2. What specific alternatives does the Commission propose to protect biodiversity from pesticide use within the framework of the European Green Deal?

Submitted: 15.9.2025

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

Reducing the impact of pesticide use and risk ⁽¹⁾ is an objective of the EU, and significant progress is being made ⁽²⁾ in this regard.

The Commission withdrew ⁽³⁾ the sustainable use of plant protection products Regulation proposal since no agreement was foreseeable, considering its rejection by the Parliament and a lack of progress in Council. The Commission's focus is on implementation of the sustainable use of pesticides Directive ⁽⁴⁾. Member States must have national action plans aimed at reducing risks and impacts of pesticide use, including via better implementation of Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

The Commission will propose a simplification package on food and feed safety ⁽⁵⁾, including measures to accelerate access to the EU market for biocontrol substances and products. In addition, through the Horizon Europe programme, the Commission supported projects to reduce hazardous pesticides use ⁽⁶⁾ and to develop bio-based alternatives for crop protection ⁽⁷⁾, ⁽⁸⁾.

Member States can include measures to protect biodiversity from pesticides impacts in their National Restoration Plans under the Nature Restoration Regulation ⁽⁹⁾. Such measures may include restrictions of pesticide use in areas under restoration or incentives for biocontrol or other measures.

Beyond its conditionality requirements, the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) ⁽¹⁰⁾ provides a range of tools, including eco-schemes, agri-environmental and climate commitments and advisory services, supporting the reduction of pesticide use ⁽¹¹⁾. Funding opportunities will also continue to exist in the CAP post-2027.

⁽¹⁾ https://food.ec.europa.eu/plants/pesticides/sustainable-use-pesticides/pesticide-reduction-targets-progress/eu-trends_en.

⁽²⁾ <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/w/ddn-20250513-1>.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/C/2024/3117/oj>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2009/128/oj/eng>.

⁽⁵⁾ As announced in the Vision for Agriculture and Food COM/2025/75 final.

⁽⁶⁾ <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101137089>.

⁽⁷⁾ <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101214981>.

⁽⁸⁾ <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101209410>.

⁽⁹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1991/oj>.

⁽¹⁰⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/2115/oj/eng>

⁽¹¹⁾ On a total of 43 million hectares (27% of the EU agricultural area) <https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-06/approved-28-cap-strategic-plans-2023-27.pdf>.