*(English version)*

**Question for written answer E-001213/26**
**to the Commission**
**César Luena (S&D)**
*(24 March 2026)*

*Subject:* Monitoring of pesticides in soils and coherence with the Kunming-Montreal targets

In its answer to Question E-000426/2026 ([1]), the Commission indicates that the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive, integrated pest management and national action plans will be used to reduce the risk from pesticides, in line with the European Union's commitment to reduce the risk from pesticides on biodiversity by at least half by 2030 under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

However, this answer raises questions as to the adequacy of the current framework in light of new scientific evidence on the widespread presence of pesticide residues in soils and in the context of simplifying food safety legislation.

In view of this:

1. Can the Commission guarantee that the current framework is adequate to meet the target of at least halving the risks pesticides pose to biodiversity by 2030?

2. How does the Commission assess the impact that initiatives to simplify regulations could have on achieving this objective?

3. Does the Commission intend to propose additional binding measures at EU level if the current instruments prove inadequate to meet international commitments?

Submitted: 24.3.2026

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission**
*(3 July 2026)*

The global indicator methodology to quantify pesticide risks under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) ([1]) is due to be finalised by the fourth quarter of 2026. It will enable Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to monitor and report on trends in pesticide risk for biodiversity.

At EU level, Directive 2009/128/EC ([2]) on the sustainable use of pesticides (SUD) aims to reduce the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment and therefore contributes to the objectives of the CBD.

To report on trends under the SUD, Harmonised Risk Indicators (HRI) have been established. HRI 1, calculated on the basis of national pesticide sales data, shows in 2023 a 61% reduction compared to the 2011-2013 baseline period, thus exceeding a 50% reduction and a 5% decrease compared to 2022 (relative to the same baseline) ([3]).

The Commission proposed to simplify regulations in order to reduce administrative burdens on economic operators and authorities, while fully maintaining the objectives of the legislation concerned.

In particular, the Food and Feed Safety Simplification Package ([4]) maintains the current high protection standards and intends to facilitate the placing on the market of lower risk profile active substances and products, such as biocontrol substances.

This is expected to support the substitution of more hazardous chemical active substances and to contribute to reducing the risks associated with the use of plant protection products.

In view of the above, the Commission will continue to collaborate closely with Member States to ensure that this positive trend is sustained in the coming years. The Commission is currently not planning to set any additional binding measures.

---

1 https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2026-000426_EN.html

([1]) https://www.cbd.int/gbf.

([2]) 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.

([3]) https://food.ec.europa.eu/plants/pesticides/sustainable-use-pesticides/harmonised-risk-indicators/trends-eu_en.

([4]) https://food.ec.europa.eu/horizontal-topics/simplification-legislation_en.