

**Question for written answer E-001957/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Martin Häusling (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Amendments to the Fertiliser Ordinance and their impact on organic farming in Germany

According to reports in the specialist press, the German Federal Ministry of Agriculture has submitted further proposals for amendments to the Fertiliser Ordinance adopted in 2017, amendments which are being proposed in response to a reprimand by the Commission. As the current system is not helping to reduce nitrogen inputs into the environment sufficiently, the Commission considers it necessary to amend the Ordinance. Those of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture's proposed amendments which have been announced so far could, in their present form, enormously damage organic farming in Germany.

1. To what extent does the Commission regard the previous rules on the reduction of nitrogen inputs from agriculture in the context of the revised Fertiliser Ordinance of the Federal Government and the *Länder*, dating from 2017, to be insufficient?
2. What is the Commission's view of the amendments proposed by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture as a whole, and what impact on the environment and organic farming would the amendments so far submitted have, in the opinion of the Commission, within the 'red' areas, i.e. those areas where groundwater is particularly polluted?
3. What proposals does the Commission consider effective and sufficiently far-reaching to reduce nitrogen inputs from agriculture without making organic farming more difficult or causing it lasting damage in highly polluted ('red') areas?