

**Question for written answer E-000464/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Biological pest control

Following Parliament's rejection of the draft regulation on the sustainable use of pesticides, the introduction of a definition of biocontrol has been suspended, slowing down any attempt to harmonise European legislation in this area.

If the EU is to achieve a 50 % reduction in the use of chemical pesticides, it is essential to speed up the authorisation procedures for new solutions, such as biocontrol products, in order to offer farmers alternatives and help them to make the ecological transition. At present, these procedures take around ten years in the EU, compared with two to three years in other countries.

The EU also needs a regulation covering all categories of biocontrol in order to harmonise legislation, stimulate the development of biocontrol products and facilitate their rapid arrival on the market.

1. Does the Commission not think that it is time to make targeted changes to Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009¹ in order to introduce fast-track procedures?
2. Given Parliament's rejection of the draft regulation, would it not be appropriate to assess the need to introduce a more specific regulation on biocontrol covering the four categories, i.e. micro-organisms, macro-organisms, chemical mediators and natural substances?

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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).