

**Question for written answer P-005467/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Gérard Deprez (ALDE)

Subject: Commission's rejection of Brussels Capital Region's ban on glyphosate

We have learned that the Commission recently overturned the Brussels Capital Region's ban on glyphosate on the grounds that it cannot use the 'precautionary principle' to ban the herbicide as that is too abstract a consideration.

The Brussels authorities justified their ban by referring to the lack of any scientific consensus on the harmfulness of the product. The Commission has drawn up a list of experts in whose opinion 'there is no justification for classifying glyphosate as carcinogenic'.

On Monday, 22 October 2018, the US courts confirmed their ruling with regard to a case brought against Monsanto. The company had been sued by a gardener with terminal cancer who claimed his illness had been triggered by the glyphosate contained in the Monsanto weed killers he used to use.

The precautionary principle is defined as follows: 'The principle whereby the lack of certainty, in the light of current scientific and technical knowledge, cannot delay the adoption of effective and proportionate risk prevention measures in the fields of the environment, health or foodstuffs'.

Does the Commission have some other definition of this principle?