



Press Release - Brüssel, 21. September 2020

Use of banned neonicotinoids in France The exception must not become the rule!

Under pressure from the sugar beet industry, France will now release neonicotinoids for the next sugar beet harvest, which have been banned outdoors since 2018. To circumvent the ban, France uses what is known as an emergency authorisation. **Martin Häusling**, agricultural spokesperson for the Greens in the European Parliament and member of the Environment Committee, comments:

'They only talk, they do nothing', comes to mind in view of the strikingly relaxed attitude of the European Commission. It may not be that the European Commission simply looks on as its own rules are not implemented. This makes it completely non-credible, also with regard to its farm to fork strategy. How is it going to cut pesticide use by half if it allows even the most dangerous insecticides, which are banned for good reason, to be used?

Since the ban on neonicotinoids, 12 EU countries have nevertheless used them in sugar beet cultivation, some of them repeatedly. It is not enough for the Commission to say that in future it will pay more attention to the reasons given by the member states for the use of neonicotinoids. A ban must actually be a ban. Instead of going the simple but nature-damaging way of using insecticides, the member states must invest resources in the application of alternative, neonicotinoid-free, cultivation methods. It's worth it, for the biodiversity, for the soil and water and, in the end, for the farmers too.'

More informationen:

Press release of Martin Häusling on the use of neonicotinoids in France: <https://martin-haeusling.eu/presse-medien/pressemitteilungen/2572-bienen-killer-neonikotinoide-frankreich-darf-nicht-durchkommen-mit-geplanter-ausnahme.html>

Letter by Martin Häusling to the European Commission from 18.8.2020: https://martin-haeusling.eu/images/200818_Letter_to_Kyriakides_Sinkevicius_Timmermans_Neonics_in_France_f.pdf

Reply by the European Commission from 18.9.2020: https://martin-haeusling.eu/images/200918_reply_from_KOM_Kyriakides_exception_use_neonicotinoids.pdf

Weitere Informationen:

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