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Neonicotinoids through gaps in the law

The European Academies' Science Advisory Council warns that phasing out the use of neonicotinoids – a group of insecticides – is being delayed because of gaps in the law. One of the report authors is the Wageningen researcher Cláudia de Lima e Silva. The EU wants to restrict the use of neonicotinoids to a minimum, mainly to stop the continuing decline in insect populations. But some member states are getting round the rules, warns the Advisory Council. They issue emergency permits as a matter of course to allow the use of banned neonicotinoids, for example to combat flea beetles. The Council also finds it worrying that alternative products under development have a similar effect on insects.

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