



JANUSZ WOJCIECHOWSKI
Commissioner for Agriculture

VIRGINIJUS SINKEVIČIUS
Commissioner for Environment
Oceans and Fisheries

Brussels, *26 of 2021*
Ref. Ares (2021)2088876

Dear Mr Lange,

Thank you for your e-mail of 22 March 2021 regarding the use of film in asparagus production and the application of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive to such production.

The EIA Directive provides that Member States must ensure that, before development consent is given, projects likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue, inter alia, of their nature, size or location are subjected to an assessment of their environmental impacts. These projects are defined in Article 4, which refers to Annexes I and II of the Directive. The use of film in asparagus cultivation does not fall into the scope of the EIA Directive and is not listed neither in Annex I nor Annex II of the Directive.

Plastic films are used in horticulture to avoid weed growing, to maintain water in the soil, and to accelerate the development of crops keeping a good temperature for vegetation in spring. In particular, avoiding weeds near to asparagus reduces the need for herbicides. The importance is that the plastic film is not causing pollution of soil and water. If the film is not biodegradable in the soil, adequate mechanisms to recover it from the field should be put in place.

We hope that the above helps to clarify your query regarding asparagus cultivation.

Yours sincerely,

Janusz Wojciechowski

Virginijus Sinkevičius

Mr Bernd LANGE
Member of the European Parliament
Bât. ALTIERO SPINELLI
12G301
60, rue Wiertz
B-1047 Brussels
bernd.lange@europarl.europa.eu