

**Question for written answer E-006475/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: Invasion of the Asian hornet and death of bees

Along with other factors, the proliferation of Asian hornets in Galicia is endangering the already fragile survival of the honeybee. Efforts to combat this pest are hampered by the ease with which the 'killer hornet' reproduces itself, with several queens in each nest. Its proliferation is linked to the disappearance of large swarms of bees. In some parts of Galicia the disappearance of bees, an increasingly widespread phenomenon in Europe, has affected up to 80% of swarms and threatens them with extinction.

The disappearance of bees could lead to the collapse of agriculture, as they are responsible for the agricultural pollination on which 76% of human food depends (according to the Food and Agriculture Organisation, 80% of flowers and 84% of cultivated plants are pollinated by bees). As Einstein warned, the very survival of the human species depends on bees.

1. Given this situation, what is the Commission's stance and what type of measures is it adopting or intending to adopt?
2. Is it considering any form of coordinated action at European level to replenish bee populations in Europe and combat invasive species and other threats?