

**Question for written answer E-008268/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Small hive beetle outbreak in Italy

In September 2014 the presence of the small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*) in the European Union was confirmed for the first time, in two separate locations in the Reggio Calabria region of south-west Italy. Meanwhile, the European Food Safety Authority had already conducted a risk assessment on the entry of bee pests into the EU in March 2013, concluding that imports of bees and bee products raised significant concerns regarding the entry and spread of such pests as the small hive beetle across the EU.

Can the Commission explain what measures have been taken to contain this particular pest infestation of bee colonies in Italy? Does it envisage taking any further measures to ensure that the small hive beetle infestation does not spread any further?