

**Question for written answer E-001377/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Josep-Maria Terricabras (Verts/ALE) and Ernest Maragall (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Combating the apple snail plague in the Ebro Delta (Spain)

The Commission has expressed concern regarding the economic and environmental damage caused by apple snails of the genus *Pomacea* in the Ebro Delta (Spain) – the only area in the EU that has so far been affected – and the threat that this species poses to the wider EU area. The fight against this invasive species has been largely based on Commission Implementing Decision 2012/697/EU as regards measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Union of the genus *Pomacea* (Perry), and between 2010 and 2013 it was primarily financed by the EU. The plague has not yet been successfully eradicated, and there is a serious danger of it spreading across Europe.

1. What funding did the Commission provide in 2014 for combating the apple snail plague, and what funding is scheduled for 2015?
2. Does the Commission intend to classify the apple snail as an 'invasive alien species of Union concern', in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species?
3. In the fight against the apple snail, has the Commission considered applying legislative measures in the context of the serious environmental impact that this plague has on special protection areas?