

**Question for written answer E-001813/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Chestnut trees

It is known that many European chestnut forests are affected by pests and parasites, partly because of the negative impact of human activities on the environment.

The biggest culprit for the deterioration of chestnut trees is certainly the fungus causing chestnut blight, *Cryphonectria parasitica*, due to which the chestnut is gradually disappearing from our forests. It is an invasive fungus that causes drying of wood and is transmitted by infected seedlings or fruits. The International Union for Conservation of Nature has included the fungus *Cryphonectria parasitica* on the list of one hundred world's most dangerous invasive species of organisms as the biggest threat to biodiversity.

On the other hand, the biggest pest of sweet chestnut is the gall wasp, *Dryocosmus kuriphilus* Yasumatsu, a quarantine pest that is considered an invasive species. A stronger attack of the chestnut wasp also weakens the condition of the tree, and trees thus weakened are often subsequently a target for stronger attacks of the above-mentioned chestnut blight.

I ask the Commission what it is doing to curb further chestnut morbidity in European forests and thereby enable continued picking of chestnuts, which is often part of the local economy and traditions in many Member States?