

**Question for written answer E-002416/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Therese Comodini Cachia (PPE)

Subject: Possible entry of the small hive beetle into Malta

The small hive beetle is a parasite of bees. Following occurrences of the small hive beetle in Italy in December 2014, the Commission adopted Decision 2014/909/EU to prevent the spread of the pest to other parts of the Union and to prevent unnecessary disturbance of trade.

Sources of infestation are not limited to bees and beekeeping materials, but include soil, fruit and wood, and agricultural products are frequently transported to Malta from Sicily by sea.

Can the Commission indicate whether it took the above into consideration when concluding its decision of December 2014 (2014/909/EU) and whether this frequent transportation poses a risk?

Should it consider this frequent transportation to pose a risk, can the Commission indicate what measures it has put in place to prevent unnecessary disturbance of the apiculture sector in Malta that may ensue from this risk?