

**Question for written answer E-002417/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Therese Comodini Cachia (PPE)

Subject: Possible entry of pest into Malta

Following the outbreak of the small hive beetle – *Aethina tumida* – in Calabria and Sicily, the National Reference Laboratory for Apiculture in Italy has adopted a number of measures, including traceability of commercial and migratory movement in and out of the affected zones.

Notwithstanding the 20- and 100-km radius criteria adopted, and noting the relatively high rate of trade between Malta and Sicily in the field of agriculture, have any movements of honey bees, beekeeping material or agricultural products such as fruit and trees (said to be source of infestation) to Malta been recorded?