

Question for written answer E-005078/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Esther Herranz García (PPE)

Subject: Harmful organisms

In reply to parliamentary questions and in the course of Commissioners' hearings before the European Parliament we have on several occasions heard the European Commission express its concern about the entry of new harmful organisms into the European Union, such as citrus black spot on fruit from South Africa or the recent arrival of *Xylella fastidiosa*, which threatens the destruction of hectares of olive groves and many other species.

We have taken note of its intention to work towards a solution for this problem and to adopt vigorous measures to restrict the entry of contaminated plants, but no specific effective measures have yet been taken to eradicate these plagues.

Will the Commission present firm measures this year to prevent imports from South Africa and other countries with contaminated crops so as to stop any new plagues from entering and impede existing ones from propagating?

With respect to *Xylella*, what measures does it consider appropriate to adopt so as to prevent this bacteria from infecting large expanses of crops in Europe?

Does the Commission not consider that a positive list should be drawn up of countries and contaminated areas in third countries with a view to improving the control of imports, along the lines of the present list for farm products?