

**Question for written answer E-005702/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Miltiadis Kyrkos (S&D)

Subject: Spread of the *Xylella fastidiosa* bacterium

In October 2013, the fatal disease caused by the '*Xylella fastidiosa*' bacterium spread for the first time to the olive trees of Apulia, in Italy. Back then, the epidemic had spread over an area of approximately 800 hectares, thus hitting tens of thousands of olive trees. At that time, it became clear that the '*Xylella fastidiosa*' bacterium – which had never before been detected in Europe – came from America and Asia.

Despite the Commission Implementing Decision of 23 July 2014 as regards measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Union of '*Xylella fastidiosa*', it appears that today in Italy 240 000 hectares of arable land have been marked off as an emergency area. The olive oil sector in Europe has been gravely hit and it is estimated that in Italy production has decreased by 50 %.

In view of this dangerous and now scientifically proven epidemic (in its report dated 6 January 2015, EFSA openly warns that: 'Establishment and spread in the EU is very likely'), will the Commission say:

1. In which way can it help to prevent the reoccurrence of such ineffective crisis management in the future?
2. Does it intend to take immediate measures to deal with the issue, involving uprooting and compensation?
3. Had general uprooting been provided for in 2013 (the bacterium had spread over a very limited area), what would the financial benefit be today?