

Question for written answer E-010742/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Mireille D'Ornano (ENF)

Subject: Spread of the New Guinea flatworm

A team from the French **Institute of Systematics, Evolution and Biodiversity** led by Jean-Lou Justine has issued a warning about the danger posed by the **New Guinea flatworm**.

This worm, which is particularly invasive where conditions allow, risks destabilising biological diversity and the environment. Originally an island species, the flatworm has now reached the various continents and is found particularly in Florida; scientists believe that its presence 'should be seen as a major potential threat to the US as a whole and even the entire American continent.'

Furthermore, the research team considers that the spread of the **New Guinea flatworm**, which has been described as 'an undesirable consequence of globalisation', means that 'an early warning of this invasion must be given to the authorities of Member States and the European Union'. The threat has already been detected in Caen, France; the task now is to limit as far as possible the risks and ensure that this worm cannot find new gateways to the territory of Europe.

Does the Commission consider that the spread of this species can be fought most effectively at Member-State level?

What recommendations can it make in this regard?