

**Question for written answer E-010897/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Protecting the outermost regions against phytosanitary threats

There are frequent phytosanitary alerts in Europe concerning the introduction of harmful bacteria or species from non-EU countries, which can cause major damage to production in the Union. The threat is greater still in the outermost regions (OMRs), which are more vulnerable in this regard.

Furthermore, given their proximity to non-EU countries, the outermost regions need to take particular care to stop harmful products from entering their territory.

In recent years the EU has tightened regulations to avoid threats of this nature; however, we must remain on high alert and avoid any exceptional cases liable to put animals, plants and humans at risk.

What measures are being taken in the phytosanitary domain to ensure the OMRs are protected from the entry of external hazards?

Is the European Union working to support non-EU countries, particularly those neighbouring the OMRs, to help bring them into line with European sanitary and phytosanitary standards?