

**Question for written answer E-011436/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Josep-Maria Terricabras (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Xylella fastidiosa: a deadly threat to European agriculture

The threat posed by the bacterium *Xylella fastidiosa* to agriculture, the food industry, economic growth and the environment in Europe has led to over a million olive trees being cut down in Apulia and the proposed destruction of eleven million more in Italy alone. It has thus far been impossible to eradicate it. Restricting the import of plants from high-risk and affected areas has helped to prevent the bacteria from spreading, but this is in no way an infallible solution and cannot halt the development or spread of the bacteria or the appearance of outbreaks in other areas. America has been trying to limit its spread, without success, for almost a century.

1. Does the Commission consider that more resources should be allocated to and more money spent on R&D?
2. What measures, apart from vigilance, destroying plants and banning imports, have been taken?
3. Can the Commission guarantee effective arrangements for complete localised control and protection?