

**Question for written answer E-012068/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Richard Sulík (ECR)

Subject: Grapevine flavescence dorée (MLO) - possible occurrence in Slovakia

Article 16 (1) of Council Directive 2000/29/EC states that Member States must notify, in writing, the Commission and the other Member States of the appearance of any of the harmful organisms listed in Annex II, Part A, Section II in any part of that Member State's territory in which their presence was previously unknown.

Since the beginning of the 2015 growing season, a number of wine growers in Slovakia have reported growing numbers of the *Scaphoideus titanus* leafhopper, a vector of Grapevine flavescence dorée mycoplasma-like organism (MLO). The relevant Slovak government body has been notified of this phenomenon.

In the Commission's view, what action should be taken and in what time frame?

Should/must the Slovak Government wait until Grapevine flavescence dorée MLO is positively identified in Slovakia and then impose the necessary quarantine measures by means of a decree, or should/must the Slovak Government act now, at a time when the vector of Grapevine flavescence dorée MLO is multiplying in Slovakia, to make sure that it does not spread further across Europe?

Does the Commission take the view that Council Directive 2000/29/EC can/should be applied to a carrier of Grapevine flavescence dorée, which would mean that the Slovak Government must notify the other Member States of the appearance of *Scaphoideus titanus*?