

**Question for written answer E-015752/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Confirmed cases of citrus black spot

The threshold set by the Commission for the prevalence of citrus black spot in imported fruit – five cases in consignments from a given third country – has recently been exceeded by a significant margin, causing serious concern and uncertainty in the Spanish citrus sector.

At least 10 cases have already been detected in consignments from South Africa, and there are reports that one vessel turned away by Spanish ports because black spot had been found in its consignments was ultimately able to land its cargo at ports in another Member State.

The EU farming industry is becoming seriously concerned about the effectiveness of our safeguards against plant diseases that are not normally present in Europe (in this case citrus black spot, or *Guignardia citricarpa*).

Bearing in mind past experience with the disease *Xylella fastidiosa* in the olive sector, is the Commission aware of the situation described above?

Will the Commission take steps to ensure that Europe is safe from this type of contamination risk?