

**Question for written answer E-001042/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Enrico Gasbarra (S&D)

Subject: Biodiversity and biosecurity

The exposure (whether deliberate or accidental) of crops to pathogens is said to cause annual losses to the farming industry of between USD 55 and 248 billion worldwide. Agricultural and food biosecurity is a highly topical issue, affecting the lives, development and health of every one of us.

Since 2005, the EU has been promoting studies on this subject, and in the past few days the results of the Plantfoodsec project, financed by the EU as part of the seventh framework programme, have been discussed. Given the importance of the subject, Europe can do more, because investing in agricultural biosecurity equates to promoting economic growth (by reducing farming industry losses caused by the diseases which affect crops) and protecting ecosystem biodiversity and public health.

Does the Commission plan to step up investment in this area, by establishing a dedicated fund as part of the interim review of the biodiversity action plan?

Does it intend to promote, through information and awareness-raising campaigns targeting farmers, producers and the main operators in the sector, training in and familiarity with agri-food biosecurity issues?