

**Question for written answer E-004092/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Franck Proust (PPE)

Subject: Spotted-wing drosophila and cherry producers in the south of France

The spotted-wing drosophila (*Drosophila suzukii*), which was first detected in Europe in the autumn of 2008, has disastrous consequences for red fruit producers, in particular cherry producers in the south of France. The insecticide (dimethoate) that producers had been using to fight the fly has recently been banned by the French health authorities. No equally effective alternative seems to have been found and made available to producers, however.

1. Do the Commission and its agency know of other effective ways to fight the destructive spotted-wing drosophila?
2. What assistance can the Commission give to the fruit producers who will undoubtedly suffer crop losses this year?