

**Question for written answer E-007951/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Lorenzo Fontana (ENF)

Subject: Damage to Italian agriculture: the case of the brown marmorated stink bug

The presence of the brown marmorated stink bug, *Halyomorpha halys*, which originates in China, Korea and Japan, has been confirmed in Italy as well, specifically in Emilia Romagna, since 2012.

It causes enormous damage to agriculture and there is not yet any remedy, because traditional anti-parasite treatments do not work at all.

This year has seen a huge rise in populations of this insect due to climatic factors, especially in north-east Italy, and in particular in Veneto and Friuli Venezia Giulia. The category organisation Coldiretti has estimated that with both the stink bug and new parasites not seen before in Italy, the damage to farming amounts to over EUR 1 billion.

Can the Commission state:

1. Is it aware of the situation as described above and how does it intend to act?
2. Does it intend to allocate extraordinary financing to the Italian agricultural sector in order to compensate affected farmers?