

**Question for written answer E-000055/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Citrus pest in Madeira

Trioza erytreae, a sap-sucking hemipteran insect of the family Triozidae, has recently been detected in the Autonomous Region of Madeira. This insect, better known as the African citrus psyllid, is found in Europe and is a vector of the bacterium *Candidatus Liberibacter* spp, a pathogen that causes a disease for which there is no treatment.

Although it poses no risk to human health, citrus greening, as this disease is commonly known, is globally the most destructive source of harm to citrus trees, leading as it does to their premature ageing and early death. The fruits of infected trees are stunted, misshapen, and discoloured, resulting in huge losses for producers.

Has the position regarding citrus greening disease already been assessed by the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed? If so, what were the findings? What funds are available under the EU budget to support control and prevention measures in Madeira?