

**Question for written answer E-000977/2017  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**José Blanco López (S&D)**

Subject: Potato blight

The blight caused by the organism *Tecia solanivora* or *Scrobipalopsis solanivora* Povolny is among those which have had the greatest economic impact on potato crops in Central America, where it originated. In Europe, it was noted in the Canary Islands in 1999, resulting in losses of 50% of production.

This blight was also detected in Galicia in August 2015. In February 2017 it was determined that 31 municipalities had been affected.

This blight could pose a serious risk to the potato production of Galicia, which has been awarded Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) status. In addition, there is some uncertainty about the announcement of a future Royal Decree of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and Environment, which could prohibit planting in the affected areas.

1. Have the Galician and/or Spanish authorities informed the Commission of the existence of this blight and, if so, of the measures they intend to take to deal with it?
2. Given that this blight was already detected in 1999, is the Commission possibly going to adopt, or does it already have, an action plan or any specific measures, including compensatory measures, to help the farmers and affected areas deal with it?