

**Question for written answer E-003886/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: Wasps

According to figures from Spain's Ministry of the Environment, 'Dryocosmus kuriphilus' or the chestnut gall wasp, an invasive insect species from China, has spread rapidly throughout Spain. It has already been found at some 25 000 locations, threatening sweet chestnut woods with destruction. As a result, pilot projects involving the introduction of a gall wasp parasite, also from China, to fight this pest are now being discussed.

This pest arrived through Italy over 10 years ago and the Commission set out rules at that time on combating it. I would like to know, therefore, whether the Commission is aware of the current situation in Spain, whether it has been notified of the steps taken to contain it and whether it has any measures planned at EU level to curb the spread of this pest?