

**Question for written answer E-005805/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Mireille D'Ornano (ENF)

Subject: Controlling *Aethina tumida*

Aethina tumida, commonly known as the 'small hive beetle', is a parasite of European bee colonies (*Apis mellifera*).

Originally from sub-Saharan Africa, *Aethina tumida* was detected in 2003 in Florida (United States) and was also detected in Portugal, in September 2004, in a cargo from Texas (United States). As far as the European Union is concerned, this parasite is essentially found only in Calabria (Italy).

Aethina tumida is governed in particular by Directive 95/65/EEC, by Decision 2005/60/EC on imports of apidae, by Regulation 415/2013 and by Decision 2017/370 imposing protective measures. In addition, according to Decision 2012/737/EU, *Aethina tumida* is subject to compulsory notification.

Although *Aethina tumida* has not been identified in Member States other than Italy, some areas of the Union offer favourable conditions for its establishment. Thus, on 15 December 2015, the European Food Safety Authority issued recommendations to prevent the spread of this parasite.

1. What is the Commission's assessment of the measures taken to monitor and report *Aethina tumida*?
2. Does the Commission envisage measures to control *Aethina tumida*, in particular by introducing additional obligations governing the transport of bees from areas at risk (mainly from Calabria)?