

**Question for written answer E-002268/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: New pest affecting cherry trees

A new pest affecting cherry trees has been detected in Japan. The 'Aromia bungii' beetle originates from China, Taiwan, the Korean peninsula and northern Vietnam. This parasite lives in the bark of trees where it absorbs moisture and may lead to the death of the tree.

The insect is thought to have entered Japan in 2012 through imported wood and has already sparked a warning from the health authorities, who have published a manual aimed at providing basic instructions for the public on how to deal with affected trees.

Is the Commission aware of this situation? How does it assess the risk of the pest spreading to Europe, in particular through imported wood from Japan or other countries where this parasite is found?