

EN  
E-004201/2018  
Answer given by Mr Hogan  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(12.10.2018)

The Commission has not received any official notification by the Italian Authorities about the suspicions or confirmation of presence of any EU potential quarantine organisms on olive trees in the region concerned. Italy informed that investigations are ongoing.

Meanwhile the Commission is funding research on plant health through Horizon 2020 (Societal Challenge 2). A topic on "New and emerging risks to plant health" (SFS-05-2018-2019-2020) has been published in 2018 and will be reopened in 2019 and 2020. It provides opportunities for applicants to propose work on a number of plant diseases. For further details on scope and eligibility conditions see the Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2018-2020<sup>1</sup>. Furthermore a Focus Group on pests and diseases of the olive tree has been recently launched under the activities of the European Innovation Partnership on 'Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability' (EIP-AGRI).

According to Article 18 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013<sup>2</sup> the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) supports investments to prevent diseases as well as to restore the agricultural production potential damaged by diseases. In particular, on this purpose, the Rural Development Programme of Veneto Region contains a measure on "*Restoring agricultural production potential damaged by natural disasters and catastrophic events and introduction of appropriate prevention actions*".

Moreover, as the implementation of the measures foreseen in the Rural Development Programmes in Italy is a responsibility of the competent regional authorities, potential beneficiaries and interested parties in the region of Veneto are invited to contact the Managing Authority of the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 of Veneto.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2018-2020/main/h2020-wp1820-food\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2018-2020/main/h2020-wp1820-food_en.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Relating to programming period 2014-2020, OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 487