

**Question for written answer E-004229/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Florent Marcellesi (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Protection of citrus fruits

The Commission has proposed some changes to current regulations to improve control over pests and diseases in fruit and vegetable shipments brought in from third countries. The Commission proposal has disappointed the Valencian agriculture sector because citrus fruits and other at-risk fruit and vegetable products are excluded from the planned maximum level of protection. The proposal concerns Article 42 of the Regulation and provides for a ban on the import of certain fruit and vegetable products and substances until their plant health can be guaranteed. However, the Commission has only placed a number of ornamental plants under the maximum level of protection and has excluded citrus fruits, despite requests for their inclusion from Spain, France and Italy amongst others.

1. Is the Commission aware of the problems that would be caused by excluding citrus fruits from this plant protection regulation?
2. Can the Commission explain why citrus fruits do not appear on the list, even though the livelihoods of thousands of families in Valencia and Spain's Mediterranean regions depend on them?
3. Does the Commission plan to meet farmers and organisations adversely affected by this measure?