

**Question for written answer E-004230/2018
to the Commission
Rule 130
Florent Marcellesi (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Protection of citrus fruits against pests

The EU citrus sector is concerned about the possibility of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta*, a moth which damages citrus fruits, reaching Europe. This moth can be found in South Africa, a country that – thanks to trade agreements approved by the EU – can export citrus fruits to the EU. The industry claims that during the transit process, South Africa applies ‘cold treatment’ to their exports, the only treatment recognised as effective and the one that is applied to their exports to the US.

Organisations from the sector in Italy, Spain and France sent a letter regarding this issue to Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis. Commissioner Andriukaitis replied that it is for exporting countries to apply the measures they deem appropriate and that Member States are assessing South Africa’s proposal. However, exports have begun.

1. Does the Commission know what measures South Africa is implementing to prevent this pest from entering the EU, and how effective they are?
2. Why is the Commission allowing a non-EU country to define the plant health conditions for access to the EU market?