

**Question for written answer E-005899/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Combating the Asian hornet

The Asian hornet ('vespa velutina nigrithorax') is the largest hornet in the world. It originated in Eastern Asia and was detected for the first time in France in 2005. It later spread to Spain, and arrived in Portugal in 2011. Since it arrived in France, the issue stopped being a local problem and assumed a European dimension. The Asian hornet is today present throughout Southern Europe, but it also has a presence in the north, notably in Scotland and the Netherlands.

In addition to its predatory activity, decimating entire hives, the Asian hornet threatens to become a public health problem, and there have already been cases of human deaths following stings. Despite representing one of the most serious threats to beekeepers, as yet no fully effective method has been recognised to eliminate the Asian hornet plague on European territory.

How does the Commission view this situation? What measures does it intend to propose? Are there currently research projects aimed at preventing and combating this plague, which today affects much of the European continent?