

**Question for written answer E-000294/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Presence of *Xylella fastidiosa* in Portugal

The presence of *Xylella fastidiosa* in Portugal has recently been confirmed. This bacterium attacks species such as olive and almond trees, which are very important to the Portuguese economy. To date, no cures for the disease have been found. Measures to prevent it spreading and to combat it consist of epidemiological control of the insect vector and a stamping-out policy, with the introduction of buffer strips.

What is the Commission's explanation as to how this disease, detected in Italy in 2014, has ended up in Portugal despite notifications being published repeatedly? What measures and support can it provide to involve producers in the detection and immediate eradication of outbreaks with a view to preventing the disease from spreading?