

**Question for written answer E-002282/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Inma Rodríguez-Piñero (S&D)

Subject: Treatment to prevent quarantine pests entering the EU in citrus imports

Commission Implementing Directive (EU) 2017/1279 of 14 July 2017 provides that, to ensure freedom from *Thaumatotibia leucotreta*, citrus fruits imported from third countries must have been subject to an effective cold treatment or to another treatment, and that the treatment method must have been communicated to the Commission in advance in writing by the national plant protection organisation of the third country concerned.

In its answer to written question E-000976/2019, the Commission confirmed that no third country had yet applied cold treatment, opting for alternative methods instead.

In view of the above:

1. Can the Commission outline the alternative plant protection and safety system currently being used in South Africa for citrus exports to the EU?
2. What body certifies that this alternative method is as effective as the previously mandatory cold treatment?
3. Has the Commission looked into the economic cost of controlling and eradicating outbreaks of quarantine pests and infestations of citrus products in the EU caused by exports from third countries?