

**Question for written answer E-002626/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Inma Rodríguez-Piñero (S&D)

Subject: Impact of the Huanglongbing ('yellow dragon') pest on citrus fruit in Spain

The Asian bacteria HLB (*Huanglongbing*), also known as 'yellow dragon', poses a threat to global citrus fruit production. It is a pest with no known cure and which has already wiped out 80 % of Florida's citrus fruit production.

Experts further highlight that Spain is in 'imminent danger' because it is the sixth-largest citrus fruit producer in the world, and that *Psila africana*, the main vector of the bacteria, was already detected in Pontevedra back in 2016.

None the less, in 2017 the Commission confirmed that 'the Regional Government of Galicia had failed to implement control measures aimed at preventing its spread', and made a number of recommendations to address the problem.

1. Has the Commission studied and monitored the prevalence of this pest in Spain since the detection of the vector in Galicia in 2016?
2. Has the Commission provided additional aid to Valencian citrus fruit growers to ensure they are adequately equipped to prevent the pest from spreading?
3. What is the Commission's assessment of the way the Regional Government of Galicia has handled this pest, which is one that could sound the death knell of Spanish citrus fruit cultivation?