

**Question for written answer P-009840/2014  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**José Bové (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Xylella Fastidiosa, highly contagious plant disease

The Commission is aware that the bacterium *Xylella Fastidiosa*, an agent of highly contagious plant disease, has been present in Italy since 2013, and probably for much longer, with disastrous effect particularly on olive trees in the Puglia region. Vines, citrus and almond trees, oleander, market garden plants, oak and other species are also vulnerable to the bacterium. If it continues to spread at the current alarming rate, Europe will face a plant-health and economic disaster.

There is mounting concern about the problem in Corsica in the light of information gleaned by a delegation from the Corsican Rural Agricultural Development Office (ODARC), at a symposium in Gallipoli (Italy) on 21-22 October 2014, about the severe inadequacy of the protection measures taken, given the damage that is already apparent. The delegates also believe that protection measures taken by the Corsican authorities since September 2014 are far from adequate.

In order to ensure that all imported plant products are fully traceable, rather than relying simply on the European plant passport system, it is essential to start by restricting plant imports to just two Corsican ports and establishing quarantine zones around them.

Is it possible, under the relevant EU rules and the system of national responsibilities, for the French and the Corsican regional authorities to put in place plant-health protection measures along these lines as a matter of urgency?