

Question for written answer P-006384/2017
to the Commission
Rule 130
Alberto Cirio (PPE)

Subject: Measures to combat the brown marmorated stink bug (*Halyomorpha Halys*)

Since 2012, there have been an increasing number of reports of the brown marmorated stink bug (*Halyomorpha cymica Halys*) manifesting itself in Italy, affecting in particular hazelnut cultivation in the Italian regions of Piedmont, Emilia and Veneto already severely afflicted by drought.

With a massive infestation rate (around 47% compared with 2-3 % for comparable insects) it is a veritable scourge, bringing farmers, especially hazelnut growers, to their knees.

Chemical control methods are only partially successful because this particular pest can move easily from one crop to another, not to mention the fact that effective insecticides themselves pose a serious risk to the ecological balance. The best solution would appear to be deployment of the *Trissolcus halyomorphae*, a parasitic wasp species not actually present on our continent.

In view of this, can the Commission say whether it intends to take suitable action, including

1. the provision of sufficient funding for programmes targeting this particular pest;
2. the provision of aid for hazelnut growers at this particularly difficult time;
3. the importation of *Trissolcus Halyomorpha* to tackle the proliferation of the brown marmorated stink bug and minimise the damage caused?