

**Question for written answer P-002791/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Rosanna Conte (ID), Marco Campomenosi (ID), Francesca Donato (ID), Gianna Gancia (ID), Lucia Vuolo (ID), Angelo Ciocca (ID), Marco Zanni (ID), Stefania Zambelli (ID), Marco Dreosto (ID), Matteo Adinolfi (ID), Antonio Maria Rinaldi (ID), Simona Baldassarre (ID), Danilo Oscar Lancini (ID), Massimo Casanova (ID), Alessandra Basso (ID), Annalisa Tardino (ID), Susanna Ceccardi (ID) and Luisa Regimenti (ID)

Subject: Uncontrolled proliferation of the brown marmorated stink bug (*Halyomorpha halys*) affecting crops in northern Italy

Since 2012, the brown marmorated stink bug (*Halyomorpha halys*) has spread at an alarming pace, especially in orchards and areas devoted to the cultivation of cereals and oilseeds in northern Italy.

The parasite, which multiplies extremely rapidly, is responsible for extensive damage to agriculture in general and its proliferation is threatening the very survival

of farms affected. Each female can lay up to 300 eggs, four times a year. The absence of natural predators or rival species in Europe encourage their reproduction where conditions are warm and humid.

In 2018, the damage sustained as a result was estimated at EUR100 million, with serious consequences for the environment and landscape, including increased use of insecticides, crop abandonment and urban and domestic infestations.

At the same time, biological control methods call for specialised procedures and are extremely costly for farmers and local authorities. In view of this and the urgent need to assist the stricken farms:

- Can the Commission say how it will respond to respond the spread of this invasive species in Italy and Europe?
- Will it take temporary emergency measures under Article 221 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 to offset damages sustained by Italian farmers and channel funding into suitable containment and biological treatment to combat the parasite?