

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0891/08

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to the Commission

Subject: Lifting the quarantine status of the western corn rootworm

The western corn rootworm is regarded as one of the most dangerous maize pests. It was detected for the first time in Baden-Württemberg in 2007 in the Ortenau district. Unlike in some other Member States of the European Union, in the Federal Republic of Germany the western corn rootworm is not recognised as a pest and cannot therefore be controlled.

Focus and safety zones are designated in affected areas, and it is sometimes no longer permitted to grow maize in these areas.

1. What is the Commission's view of this situation? Can the quarantine status be justified?
2. Can the Commission provide an overview of the differing approaches to combating corn rootworm in the Member States?
3. How much national leeway is there under Decision 2003/766/EC<sup>1</sup>?

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 275, 25.10.2003, p. 49.