

**Question for written answer E-006215/2011  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Research into invasive species and destructive insects

The European Union spends more than EUR 12 billion every year on measures to control invasive species and destructive insects and to deal with the damage caused by such pests. Prevention, monitoring and research are therefore essential in order to reduce costs and protect biodiversity.

Does the Commission intend to make more funding available for research into invasive species (plant-health research, biological control agents, etc.) when drawing up the 8th Framework Programme for Research (FP8) and in the forthcoming review of the EU plant-health regime, due to take place in the first half of 2012?

Does it plan to maintain and strengthen its support for the EUPHRESKO network of research laboratories specialising in invasive species?

Would it be possible to provide support through EUPHRESKO for experiments testing new control measures or solutions?

Would the Commission also consider creating regional networks of research laboratories that would focus specifically on biomes affected by localised invasions (of red palm weevil, for example)? Can it therefore foresee the possibility of a Mediterranean regional network bringing together southern EU countries and partner countries on the other side of the Mediterranean?

It would also be worthwhile continuing the work carried out under the DAISIE programme (Delivering Alien Invasive Species Inventories for Europe), launched as part of the 6th Framework Programme. An inventory of more than 10 000 non-native species was compiled over three years on the basis of cooperation under DAISIE between various research centres and universities from across the EU and beyond. In addition to producing inventories of species, does the Commission agree that it would now also make sense to draw up common management or eradication procedures?