

**Question for written answer E-007939/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: New plant-safety rules imposed by Canada

Canada has recently approved changes to the plant-safety rules covering imports of certain fruits to prevent the spread of the disease *Lobesia botrana* (also called the European grapevine moth), which mainly affects vineyards. The Canadian Government has decided to introduce stringent sanitary and plant-safety measures, which entail very high costs for producers, not only for grape exports, but also for other fruits, including the kiwi, persimmon, pomegranate, and stone fruits, despite there being no scientific evidence to suggest they could spread this disease.

In view of the forthcoming trade agreement with Canada, these measures, which make it harder to export produce from Europe, particularly from Spain, seem unnecessary.

Does the Commission intend to ask Canada to lift these measures?

Is it considering making representations to Canada to prevent heavy losses for producers?

Does the new treaty with Canada represent a step towards mutual recognition of plant-health rules, which could prevent this type of trade barrier in the future?