

**Question for written answer E-008565/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Esther Herranz García (PPE), Pilar Ayuso (PPE), Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso (PPE), Gabriel Mato (PPE) and Rosa Estaràs Ferragut (PPE)

Subject: Cases of *Xylella fastidiosa* in Spain

Xylella fastidiosa has been identified in Spain, affecting cherry trees in the Balearics. The effects of the plant disease, which is very difficult to eradicate, can be devastating. It has now been found in four Member States (Italy, France, Germany and Spain). Just like many other plant diseases, *Xylella* reached the EU via imports from third countries. The spread of such diseases within the EU shows the major weaknesses inherent in import checks. The recent regulation on pest control includes a new monitoring scheme based on the precautionary principle, but delegated and implementing acts are still required in order to ensure it is applied in full.

1. Given the need for urgent steps to be taken to stop the spread of this disease and to prevent other epidemics from reaching the EU, is the Commission intending to speed up the implementation of the new preventive measures included in the new regulation, so as to make it possible, when necessary, to suspend certain imports on the basis of a preliminary risk assessment?
2. Has the Commission thought of a way of preventing further cases of *Xylella* infections resulting from imports originating outside the EU?