

**Question for written answer E-000177/2017  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Maria Noichl (S&D)**

Subject: Import controls on the Asian Long-horned Beetle

It is well known that the Asian Long-horned Beetle (ALB) finds its way into Europe on wood used in packaging from China. Spot checks are therefore carried out on relevant consignments at the time of import. In 2013 the Federal Forestry Office (BFW) in Austria carried out plant health checks and found ALB infestation in 8% of consignments. (BFW Forest Protection Institute, 'Forstschutz Aktuell', No 59, August 2015).

Are there any common EU standards for checking consignments, e.g. complete unloading of container, raising pallets with a fork-lift for 'all-round checking' or the use of ALB sniffer dogs? If so, how are these standards defined? If not, why not?

The wide-ranging programme to eradicate the ALB has already had a dramatic impact, particularly in inner-city areas where trees are a significant feature of the townscape and make a crucial contribution to the climate of the city.

How often, and where, has the exception provided for in Annex III, point 3(1)(b) of Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/893 of 9 June 2015 been made use of?