

**Question for written answer E-004160/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
György Hölvényi (PPE)

Subject: Grasshopper and cricket varieties in danger

According to the latest report by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), over a fifth of Europe's grasshopper and cricket varieties are under threat of extinction. Their disappearance would not only reduce biodiversity. Since they provide food for many bird and reptile species, their extinction would damage the whole ecosystem. They live in grassy areas, which are being damaged mainly by the spread of tourism, agricultural activities and wildfires. According to the report, the process could be controlled if sustainable grass management and traditional agricultural methods were employed, and if a comprehensive monitoring programme were launched to keep track of changes in the populations. This would also contribute to achieving the 2030 Agenda, as it is linked to objective No 15.

Does the EU have figures for changes in the insect population?

What can the EU do to reverse the extinction process?