

**Question for written answer E-002818/2019**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Ignazio Corrao (NI)**

Subject: Information on the fund for plant diseases and citrus tristeza in Sicily

The citrus tristeza virus (CTV) has been destroying Sicilian citrus groves for many years, causing huge economic damage.

Regulation (EU) No 652/2014 provides for a subsidy to cover the costs of eradication or containment of harmful organisms or the prevention of their spread within the Member States.

Commission Implementing Decision 2014/910/EU allocated Sicily EUR 891 000 to combat CTV by carrying out checks in preparation for control of the virus by conversion.

This appropriation was valid for one year, from September 2014 to September 2015 (expiring on 31 October 2015) and was subject to a payment request with a technical report on the measures implemented.

Despite the inclusion of CTV in the list, Sicily did not apply for funding.

- Is the fund for the relevant plant diseases still available to Sicily?
- What other financial instruments can be used to combat plant diseases in Sicily?
- Has Sicily drawn on funds earmarked for the control of CTV?