

**Question for written answer E-000923/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
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Subject: Deadly virus ravages EU tomato crops

Tomato and pepper crops in the EU Member States are currently under threat from an extremely aggressive virus. While the tomato brown rugose fruit virus (ToBRFV) is harmless to humans, it has a devastating impact on vegetable crops, including those cultivated under glass or in polytunnels. The virus can be transmitted by the infected seeds, plants or fruit or even through mere contact with an infected plant. It can also survive for long periods while remaining infectious.

No treatment has yet been found and no plant varieties are capable of resisting it. The virus manifests itself through the appearance of yellow or brown spots on leaves and deformation of vegetables and fruits, making them unsellable. Romania is also at great risk from the virus, which would have a devastating impact on its crops.

Given the destruction already wreaked by the virus on crops in several EU Member States such as Spain, Italy, Greece and the Netherlands, as well as on other countries such as Turkey, the US or China, what countermeasures will the Commission take to combat the virus and prevent it spreading to other EU Member States?