

**Question for written answer E-002670/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Brice Hortefeux (PPE)

Subject: Inclusion of the walnut husk fly in Annex II to Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 on implementation of the Regulation on organic production and labelling

The insecticide Decis Trap MB was authorised for use in organic farming in 2018 to manage the walnut husk fly, but its authorisation was withdrawn in 2019 as, although Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 authorises deltamethrin for use against the Mediterranean fruit fly in organic fruit farming (olives, apples), it does not authorise it for nut farming.

Untreated, this pest can damage up to 70 % of the crop. Clay is the only treatment approved to fight it, but it is not easy to apply this in old nut orchards.

Organic nut producers are thus forced to resort to spraying plant protection products. This is not what society expects of them, however, and it goes against their voluntary undertaking not to treat crops near to housing. However, the use of Decis Trap MB would enable them to abide by this praiseworthy approach.

1. Has the Commission been informed about this problem?
2. Faced with the spread of this pest, and bearing in mind its commitments to beneficial organic solutions, does the Commission plan to amend Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 889/2008?
3. Failing this, what other solutions can it offer to help nut producers in their fight against the walnut husk fly?