

**Question for written answer E-003651/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Annika Bruna (ID)

Subject: Promoting innovative, green ways of dealing with the Asian hornet

Alongside pesticides and *Varroa destructor* mites, the Asian hornet is one of the major causes of the mass death of bees. It was introduced to France accidentally in a consignment of pottery from China, and was first spotted in Lot-et-Garonne in 2004. Since then it has spread to neighbouring countries and is still spreading at a rate of about 60 km per year.

Asian hornets catch bees at the entrance to hives and then eat their thorax, which is rich in protein. They also attack bee broods by breaking into the weakest hives. This scares the forager bees, who leave the hive less often, meaning the hive has fewer reserves for the winter.

In an effort to deal with this pest, the insect biology research institute at the University of Tours has identified the pheromones emitted by the hornets in order to synthesise them so that they can be used to repel the hornets from hives or trap them¹. This would seem to be a greener solution, as it is more selective than traditional traps that catch a lot of other insects.

Is the Commission aware of other innovative research to deal with the Asian hornet?

Would it be willing to finance that research, and the large-scale commercial development thereof?

¹ <https://france3-regions.francetvinfo.fr/normandie/manche/saint-lo/solution-contre-frelon-asiatique-chercheurs-ont-enfin-trouve-comment-lui-parler-1794951.html>