

**Question for written answer E-001939/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Jordi Cañas (Renew)

Subject: Lack of action by the Commission to prevent the spread of pests through citrus fruit exports to Europe

The European Commission removed from the agenda of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (SCoPAFF) the proposal to require countries such as South Africa to submit oranges being exported to a cold treatment during transport in order to avoid the transmission of pests. This measure, already applied by the USA, has been called for repeatedly by the European agricultural production sector, especially in Spain, and is backed by a scientific report by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), which recommended a change in the Regulation in order to protect EU producers from pests such as the 'false codling moth'.

With this decision, the Commission is endangering European crops and plant species by failing to take the necessary measures to prevent the entry of invasive pests and species.

This situation raises the following questions:

1. Does the Commission intend to keep the regulation proposed in February, which required transport temperatures from -1°C to 0°C for sixteen days?
2. If not, what measures will the Commission adopt?
3. How will European farmers meet the environmental objectives of the Farm to Fork Strategy, which implies a 50 % reduction in plant protection products by 2030, if the EU fails to protect them from foreign pests?