

**Question for written answer E-002461/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Karlo Ressler (PPE)

Subject: Simplifying the import of small quantities of plants from a third country to a Member State

Many of those who fled the ravages of war in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) in the 1990s left their homes and land behind and found refuge in Croatia, where they live to this day. Once the conflict was settled, some refugees recovered their farmland in BiH as, for generations, they had cultivated certain crops for their families and they had no such land in Croatia.

The relevant EU legislation, in particular Regulation 2016/2031 of 26 October 2016 on protective measures against pests of plants, provides a framework for mitigating phytosanitary risks, and also provides for exemptions from phytosanitary checks on imports, such as exemptions for frontier zones (Article 46) and travellers' luggage (Article 75).

Many citizens with agricultural areas in BiH are not able to bring their fruit and vegetables into Croatia for private consumption without a phytosanitary certificate, as they do not live in a frontier zone, and the Commission has not yet adopted an implementing act for the exemptions under Article 75.

While there is no disputing the essence of quality control, in this case it is a relatively expensive and bureaucratic process given the size and non-commercial nature of the imports.

How can the Commission help make it easier for European citizens to supply their own families with fruit and vegetables from a neighbouring third country?