

**Question for written answer E-003283/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Garlic growers hit by Waxy breakdown

In France, particularly in departments such as the Gers, garlic harvests are being decimated by Waxy breakdown, a disease that blackens garlic, giving it a slimy texture and unpleasant odour that render it unfit for sale. Experts strongly advise against consuming garlic in this state owing to its health risks.

Waxy breakdown is a well-known, regularly occurring phenomenon, but is proving much more acute in some regions this year. Garlic producers has already had to cope with this summer's drought. Europe's farming sector, already mired in a deep crisis, is thus being doubly punished since this disease could wipe out a third of output.

Pink garlic is even more affected, with yields already down by 50%, and even by 80% in some non-irrigated plots.

I would therefore like to ask the Commission:

1. Whether there any support measures or programmes in place today to help farmers who have been harmed by Waxy breakdown?
2. Whether there any programmes working to improve understanding of this disease and thus better to prevent it?