

**Question for written answer E-003373/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Threat to softwood plantations in Europe

Not widely known by the general public, the large pine weevil is the most important pest for softwood plantations in France and elsewhere in Europe. According to the latest census by France's National Forestry Office, 10 000 hectares of softwood are affected by this insect, including just under 2 000 hectares of maritime pine. Unlike Scandinavian forests, which are attacked only once a year, French softwood forests have to bear two waves of damage, in spring and late summer, or even a wave of continuous attack over the entire period. This threat has direct financial consequences for forestry producers.

The French National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and the Environment (INRAE) is running a programme called Luthyl to develop and test methods, such as attractant traps, to control this parasite in young softwood plantations. Different combinations of traps have been tested on a number of experimental plots to feed into warning systems and assess the pest pressure.

Could the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Is it aware of the problems associated with this parasitic insect?
2. Will it participate in a support programme for the forestry sector?