

**Question for written answer E-000666/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Tom Vandenkendelaere (PPE)

Subject: Combating the Asian hornet in the EU

On 24 January 2023 the Commission presented its 'New Deal for Pollinators' – a revision of the previous EU Pollinators Initiative. It identifies invasive alien species as one of the main causes of the decline of wild pollinators. Reducing the impact of invasive alien species on pollinators is a goal of the initiative, and rightly so. Certainly with regard to the Asian hornet, the urgent need for action should not be underestimated. However, there is no express reference to the Asian hornet in the 'New Deal for Pollinators'.

1. Does the Commission acknowledge how seriously and urgently the Asian hornet needs to be combated in order to safeguard pollinators and bee populations?
2. What specific steps will the Commission take to combat the Asian hornet, and on what timescale?

Submitted: 28.2.2023