

**Question for written answer E-000855/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Tackling the small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*) infestation in Réunion

Aethina tumida is a beetle that ravages bee colonies by feeding on their brood, honey and pollen flour. It even destroys the hive frames and causes the honey to ferment.

Now on all continents, it was detected in 2014 in southern Italy and was confirmed in Réunion in July 2022 following a dozen outbreaks in the south of the island.

Although the health authorities tried to eradicate this pest as quickly as possible by introducing preventive traps, banning transhumance of hives and potentially infested material, and even burning hives, a further outbreak was detected in early February.

Over 22 000 hives risk being destroyed in Réunion. In addition, the insect could potentially enter mainland France via the frequent air links between the two territories.

1. Is the Commission monitoring the spread of this pest in Europe and in our outermost regions?
2. Does it consider the measures to monitor the transport of queen bees and hive equipment within the European Union to be satisfactory?
3. Does it believe that beekeepers receive adequate compensation for their losses?

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