

**Question for written answer E-002696/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Cherry harvest ruined by large numbers of flies

Invasive species, such as the spotted wing drosophila (*drosophila suzukii*), pose a threat to biodiversity. This small fly originates from Japan and reproduces in cherries at a fast rate. It lays its eggs before the fruit is ripe so that the larvae grow by feeding on the pulp.

In July, fruit farmers had to cope with significant damage caused by large numbers of these flies: some lost between 80% and 90% of their cherry harvest. In other cases, farmers even decided not to harvest, as too little fruit had been spared.

Until last year, to combat drosophila, orchards were treated preventively with an effective chemical insecticide, PhosNet, which is now banned because of its high toxicity. However, France's National Federation of Fruit Producers has requested derogations regarding its use. There are other possible solutions for controlling this insect, such as installing huge mosquito nets, but they still involve substantial costs.

1. Is the Commission planning to set up a solidarity and compensation scheme for fruit farmers who have been hit hard by this?
2. Has the Commission anticipated the impact that this threat will have on our biodiversity?

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