

**Question for written answer E-003087/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: South African citrus fruit with black spot

In September 2023, the European Union detected five citrus fruit shipments – one of lemons, one of mandarins and three of oranges – from South Africa contaminated with the pest responsible for citrus black spot.

With 33 shipments containing black spot already intercepted during the export season to Europe, a total of 38 shipments of South African citrus fruit have now been detected with this disease. If it is introduced into and spreads through the EU citrus sector, it would result in serious losses.

Moreover, the detection of false moths in mandarins once again highlights the need to extend cold treatment to all citrus species at risk of spreading this quarantine pest.

1. What measures is the Commission taking to contain and prevent the spread of black spot in the EU?
2. What guarantees is it giving to the European citrus sector, which has been affected by this pest?
3. What plans does it have to extend the requirement for cold treatment to all citrus fruit?

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