

**Question for written answer E-003227/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Gianantonio Da Re (ID)**

**Subject:** Immediate action against the spread of new plant diseases from non-EU countries which are detrimental to the European citrus fruit sector, particularly in Italy

The Italian citrus fruit sector recently sounded the alarm about certain plant diseases that would seriously endanger the entire national sector, which is now the second-largest producer in the EU after Spain.

The particular dangers posed to plants include the false codling moth which is harmful to citrus plants, as well as diseases such as citrus black spot found in citrus fruits from South Africa and the Citrus tristeza virus imported from Southeast Asia.

Given the above and the fact that the Italian sector has an export value of around EUR 250 million at European level:

1. Will the Commission take action to economically safeguard the European citrus fruit sector, in particular the Italian sector, by means of specific financial instruments?
2. Will it take action to encourage and ensure checks at EU borders in order to prevent plant diseases, such as those mentioned above, from entering the European market?

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