

**Question for written answer E-003698/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Clara Aguilera (S&D)

Subject: Discovery of pest 'false codling moth' on fruit from Morocco

In November 2023, the Commission confirmed a first discovery of the pest 'false codling moth' (*Thaumatotibia leucotreta*) in a shipment of pomegranates from Morocco, a third country that has, until now, been considered an area free of this quarantine pest.

The false codling moth has a devastating effect on dozens of crops and tree species. Its entry into and spread across the EU would lead to an average decrease of 26% of citrus fruit production. It also causes serious damage to other types of production, such as stone fruit, apple, pear, avocado, vine, olive tree, persimmon, pomegranate, pepper, tomato and aubergine, as well as rose and oak.

Given Morocco's high volume of fruit and vegetable exports to the EU, especially via Spain, there is a high risk that this pest will implant itself and spread to all types of production that are susceptible to it.

1. What measures is the Moroccan Government taking to tackle this pest?
2. In view of this first discovery, what measures will the Commission take?
3. Has the Commission planned to carry out field inspections to clarify and/or determine the presence of this pest in Morocco and prevent further cases like this?

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