

Question for written answer E-003735/2023
to the Commission
Rule 138
Jordi Cañas (Renew)

Subject: Immediate measures to counter the spread of the 'false codling moth' from Morocco

A shipment of pomegranates from Morocco affected by the 'false codling moth' (*Thaumatotibia leucotreta*) was recently seized. Morocco had hitherto been considered to be free of this pest. Farmers' organisations report that the presence of 'false codling moths' can lead to a very dangerous infestation liable to spread rapidly and devastate a wide variety of crops¹.

Given the high volume of fruit and vegetable exports from Morocco to the EU, especially via Spain, there is a serious risk that this pest will implant itself and spread throughout Europe. Its introduction to and spread in the EU would cause the loss of 26% of citrus fruit yield on average and seriously damage other crops².

In light of the above:

1. Given the extremely serious risk to plant health posed by this pest, will the Commission open an investigation without delay to ascertain the true extent of the threat? What measures does it intend to take to prevent this pest from reaching Europe?
2. If the presence of the 'false codling moth' in Morocco is confirmed, will it hold the Moroccan Government to account for failing to notify it or take any preventive measures?

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¹ <https://castellonaldia.elmundo.es/economia/alarma-extrema-tras-detectar-europa-la-plaga-de-la-falsa-polilla-en-un-cargamento-de-granadas-marroquies-IH17893685>

² <https://agronoma.sevilla.abc.es/noticias/agricultura/la-letal-plaga-mas-cerca-detectan-la-falsa-polilla-en-un-cargamento-de-fruta-procedente-de-marruecos/>