

**Question for written answer E-000097/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Threat posed by the Asian hornet to biodiversity and European honey

The Asian hornet (*Vespa velutina*) is an invasive species that poses a serious threat to European biodiversity, with potentially devastating effects. Indeed, it is a voracious predator capable of killing up to 30 bees in a single day. Its behaviour has led to a significant decline in bee populations in some European countries, where it first appeared in 2004.

The Asian hornet is jeopardising the health of *Apis mellifera* populations, the species of bee present in Italy and responsible for the production of high-quality honey, with major consequences for this agricultural sector and Italy's biodiversity in general.

In view of the new deal for pollinators, on which the European Parliament adopted a resolution on 23 November 2023, can the Commission say:

1. What it is doing to combat the spread of the Asian hornet?
2. What funding is available to address this?
3. What initiatives are being taken to raise public awareness of the threat posed by the Asian hornet?

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