

**Question for written answer E-000778/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Rosa D'Amato (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Scientific study on Xylella

An article recently published in the Journal of Phytopathology ('A decade of monitoring surveys for *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *pauca* in olive groves in Apulia (Italy) reveals a low incidence of the bacterium in the demarcated areas')¹ analysed a decade of official data and found there to be no correlation between Xylella and the desiccation of olive trees.

It also shows:

1. the very low incidence of olive trees testing positive (including in the infected areas);
2. the excessive number of healthy monumental olive trees that get uprooted under the '50 m radius' rule, despite the very low incidence of the bacterium;
3. the epidemiological irrelevance of asymptomatic trees in the spread of Xylella.

On the basis of this data and according to epidemiological models, the study suggests doing away with the obligation to fell all trees within a 50 m radius of the infected plant.

In the light of this new scientific evidence:

1. Does the Commission intend to revise the felling measures in Regulation (EU) 2020/1201?
2. Will it ask the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) to move *Xylella fastidiosa* (olive rapid decline complex strain) from the A2 quarantine list to the alert list?
3. Will it abolish the ban on replanting native varieties, given that a number of scientific publications have confirmed that native olive varieties are more resistant to Xylella than the Leccino olive tree?

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¹ <https://doi.org/10.1111/jph.13272>