

**Question for written answer P-002291/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Pilar Ayuso (PPE)**

Subject: Citrus black spot

On 21 February the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) published its Scientific Opinion on the *Phyllosticta citricarpa* (*guignardia citricarpa*) fungus<sup>1</sup>.

The EU regards this fungus as a quarantine pest and claims to be pest-free. Citrus fruit from countries where the fungus does exist have to satisfy a number of requirements. It must, for example, come from an area where the fungus is not found or where there have been no symptoms in the field of production or on the surrounding land since the last growing season; it must have been treated for the fungus; and it must have been inspected in order to ascertain that it is wholly symptom-free.

South Africa thinks it unlikely that this fungus could establish itself in the EU and is asking for shipments to be regionalised, allowing it to export to northern Europe, but not to the South.

Last year more than 35 consignments from South Africa were intercepted, and South African citrus fruit was banned for the 2013 marketing year. The EFSA Scientific Opinion states that treatment with the fungicides used does not prevent the fungus from becoming established and that, leaving aside their environmental impact, most of the fungicides which are effective for citrus fruit must not be used to treat citrus fruit in the EU. The EFSA also maintains that, once established, the fungus is impossible to eradicate and its spread is very difficult to contain. Can the Commission therefore say what steps it will take now that the EFSA has published its Scientific Opinion?

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<sup>1</sup> EFSA Journal 2014; 12(2):3557, [243 pp.].