1. Several instruments provided by the European Agriculture Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) can be put in place to tackle the problem of pests from different perspectives. Measure 17 provides farmers with a contribution to participate in insurance schemes covering significant production losses such as destroyed crops. Measure 5 can support investments in the restoration of agricultural production potential as well as investments in preventive actions.

Under State aid rules, aid can be granted for investments on agricultural holdings aiming at preventing and/or restoring agricultural production potential damaged by plant pests\(^1\). Furthermore, aid for the costs of prevention, control and eradication of plant pests and aid to address the damage caused by those plant pests can be granted in relation to plant pests for which Union or national rules exist\(^2\). Finally, aid may also be granted as \textit{de minimis} aid\(^3\).

2. State aid rules applicable to the agricultural sector already cater for various possibilities for cases of plant pests as referred to in the reply to the first question.

3. According to the Commission’s understanding, the outbreaks of Moroccan locusts (Dociostaurus maroccanus) in Sardinia are not linked to the import of horticultural products to Sardinia from third countries and cannot hence be prevented through stepped up plant health border controls at EU borders, nor through other EU border control-related precautions.

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\(^{1}\) Such aid can be granted both under Part II, Chapter 1.1.1.1. of the 2014 European Union Guidelines for State aid in the agricultural and forestry sectors and in rural areas (OJ C 204, 1.7.2014, p. 1), and to small and medium sized undertakings under Article 14 of Commission Regulation (EU) 702/2014 of 25 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid in the agricultural and forestry sectors and in rural areas compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, OJ L 193, 1.7.2014, p.1.

\(^{2}\) Such aid can be granted both under Part II, Chapter 1.2.1.3. of the 2014 Guidelines (cf. footnote 1) and for small and medium sized undertakings under Article 26 of Regulation (EU) No 702/2014 (cf. footnote 1).