

**Question for written answer E-001851/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Reinforcing checks on imports from non-EU countries in the face of the rising number of consignments affected by citrus black spot

European citrus fruit growers are warning of the risk posed to plant health for EU crops by the increase in the number of imports affected by *Phyllosticta citricarpa* – better known as citrus black spot – detected in recent months in European ports, having arrived from non-EU countries, and specifically from countries like South Africa. In June and July, 12 further consignments of imported citrus fruit affected by the virus and destined for the European market were intercepted.

In light of the fear that this virus will spread and the risk that this would pose to European citrus fruit growers, especially those in Spain, we believe it is necessary to put in place measures to reinforce import checks at border crossing inspection points in the network of European ports.

In view of the above:

1. Is the Commission planning measures to reinforce checks in the context of inspections of imports from non-EU countries?
2. Has the Spanish Government requested assistance from the European Commission in the form of greater technical resources and more staff and to reinforce checks on imports from non-EU countries at the country's border ports?

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