

**Question for written answer E-002628/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Galato Alexandraki (ECR)

Subject: Financial support for Greek walnut producers following the devastating effects of anthracnose

Walnut anthracnose is a serious problem affecting farmers in Greece. Nurseries where insufficient spraying was carried out have been hit particularly hard. Symptoms are equally severe in walnut groves where pruning and irrigation practices have resulted in high levels of relative humidity in tree crowns, encouraging the growth of the fungus during the growing season. The fungus overwinters in the affected parts of the trees that fall to the ground and action is needed in order to limit primary infection in the next growing season. This includes removing and burning dried leaves or incorporating them into the soil through shallow ploughing, as well as spraying leaves with a copper formulation before or after they fall to the ground.

However, producers in Greece – and especially in the wake of the recent catastrophic floods – cannot afford to use only the authorised plant protection products required, following the instructions for their use to the letter.

In view of the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. What measures could be taken to provide financial support to Greek walnut producers who have suffered serious damages?
2. What instruments can be used to supply the appropriate plant protection products in order to ensure effective treatment of anthracnose and the seamless continuation of walnut growing in Greece?

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