

Question for written answer E-003244/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Plant health emergency over the Japanese Beetle (*Popillia japonica*) in Veneto and the impact of plant health restrictions

In recent weeks, infestations have been reported in the Veneto region of *Popillia japonica*, an invasive alien insect which can wreck many kinds of agricultural crop, green areas and natural environments. The economic, agronomic and environmental damage that its proliferation can cause is growing significantly, throwing farms, local authorities and public green operators into crisis.

Against this backdrop, the only means to combat the spread of the insects is severely restricted by the current EU legislation on the use of plant protection products, and in particular Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 and the Farm to Fork strategy, which provide for a 50 % reduction in the use of chemical pesticides by 2030.

There is an understandable need to promote sustainable farming models, but it must be highlighted that there are a lack of effective alternatives and that it is difficult to contain invasive species such as *Popillia japonica* without the use of the active ingredients that are currently banned or severely restricted.

In the light of the above:

1. Will the Commission take extraordinary measures, including by way of a temporary derogation from the current restrictions, to enable targeted and effective action to be taken in the worst-affected areas?
2. How will it help Member States and local authorities to contain harmful alien organisms, given the parameters set in the regulatory restrictions on plant health?

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