

Question for written answer E-003474/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Sergio Berlato (ECR)

Subject: Strategy for the future of the bark beetle

At various times in the past, in various EU countries, the bark beetle has reached the epidemic phase, causing massive damage to forests and their natural role in protection, production and the landscape. In order to eradicate the insect, Member State authorities have adopted preventive monitoring measures over the years involving wildlife rangers, bloodhounds, drones, traps baited with synthetic pheromones and immediate clearance of infested wood. Forests cover 43.5 % of the EU's surface area and the wood they produce can account for 20 % of the revenue of EU manufacturers (397 000 companies¹).

In order to better understand the future plans to protect forests and eradicate pests such as the bark beetle, I would ask the following:

1. What steps are being taken to curb the spread of the bark beetle that is destroying Italian and European woodlands?
2. How will the Commission specifically encourage Member States and regions to share their monitoring plans, digital tools and best practices in plant protection management?
3. Is it possible to strengthen the EU Forest Strategy mechanisms, promoting specific areas of research on forest restoration in order to protect and restore native species?

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¹ 2018 figure.