

Question for written answer E-003928/2025

to the Commission

Rule 144

Paolo Inselvini (ECR), Carlo Fidanza (ECR), Sergio Berlato (ECR), Michele Picaro (ECR)

Subject: Türkiye's ban on imports of Italian ornamental palms

Türkiye has recently banned imports of Italian ornamental palms on the grounds of alleged phytosanitary risks linked to the presence of the red palm weevil (*Rhynchophorus ferrugineus*) – a parasitic insect that has already spread in several Mediterranean countries.

In particular, the measure concerns the palm species *Phoenix canariensis* and *Washingtonia robusta*, which are widely grown in Italy for the European and international markets.

According to industry data, Italy exports around 120 000 palms per year, with a commercial value of more than EUR 35 million, of which over 15 % has historically been directed to the Turkish market.

Italy already applies strict phytosanitary control protocols in line with EU legislation, with compulsory heat treatments and regular monitoring. The Turkish measure therefore appears to be disproportionate and discriminatory, risking serious damage to a sector that employs around 2 500 people and has invested in prevention and research systems over the last years.

In the light of the above:

1. What will the Commission do to verify that the Turkish ban complies with WTO rules and the EU-Türkiye Association Agreement?
2. What diplomatic and technical measures will it take to protect affected Italian exporters?
3. Does it consider it appropriate to open a bilateral dialogue in order to ensure reciprocity and transparency in the trade of ornamental species?

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