

Question for written answer E-001886/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Serious damage to orchards in Pella and Imathia and need for scientific investigation and support for producers

Producers of stone fruits in the Regional Units of Pella and Imathia, Greece, have been facing a serious problem in recent years: widespread fruit deformation and gradual tree desiccation in peach orchards – a phenomenon that seems to be spreading to other tree types, such as apricot, plum and cherry.

According to local rural actors, the area affected is estimated to have reached around 21 km², and in several cases production has fallen by as much as 60 %, with serious repercussions for producers' incomes and the viability of crops. Despite the seriousness of the situation, the exact cause of the phenomenon remains to be clarified, while the Greek Government's response to date has been limited to insufficient and fragmented compensation, without a comprehensive plan for scientific investigation and addressing the problem.

Given the importance of tree crops for the region's rural economy and for European stone fruit production, can the Commission say:

1. Is it monitoring this disease phenomenon affecting stone fruit crops in Greece, and can it contribute to the investigation of its causes through European research programmes or scientific networks?
2. What tools of the common agricultural policy or other European programmes can be used to support producers who suffer significant production losses?
3. Does it intend to consider measures to prevent and manage similar phytosanitary risks in order to prevent the phenomenon from spreading further to other parts of the EU?

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