Question for written answer E-002454/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Christine Singer (Renew)

Subject: Proportionality of mandatory use of EPPO codes in horticulture

The mandatory use of codes from the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) in plant protection documentation places an additional administrative burden on small and medium-sized horticultural businesses in particular.

In the ornamental plant and shrub sector especially, many businesses work with a wide range of species and varieties. Meanwhile, a globally recognised botanical nomenclature with Latin genus and species names already exists, and is used both in teaching and in practice.

1. What additional technical or phytosanitary function does the mandatory use of EPPO codes serve compared with existing botanical nomenclature, and has the Commission examined the practical implications of this obligation for small and medium-sized horticultural businesses?

2. Does the Commission see any scope for allowing simplified generic terminology or other real-world solutions in the ornamental plant sector in particular, without compromising the goals of plant health and traceability?

3. As part of ongoing simplification initiatives, is the Commission planning to review these documentation requirements for proportionality?

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