Question for written answer E-002455/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Christine Singer (Renew)

Subject: Proportionality of the plant passport regime for local exchange systems in horticulture

The plant passport under Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 is a vital tool for plant health and traceability, and is subject to the control and enforcement provisions in Regulation (EU) 2017/625. In practice, however, difficulties are arising with small-scale local exchange arrangements between horticultural businesses, which often help each other out short term with small quantities of plants – for example, within local delivery networks. These transactions are currently subject to the same bureaucratic requirements as cross-border trade.

1. Has the Commission looked into whether the current requirements for local and small-scale transfers of ornamental plants are proportionate, and what does it have to say about businesses with distinct production and sales arms which effectively have to issue themselves plant passports?

2. Does it see any scope for a simplified regime for short-term regional exchange arrangements between horticultural businesses, without compromising the goals of plant health?

3. Does it intend to review the plant passport regime for small and medium-sized horticultural businesses as part of ongoing simplification initiatives?

Submitted: 15.6.2026