

**Priority question for written answer P-004725/2025
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Moroccan ban on imports of vine-planting material

Following the discovery in 2024 of a number of grapevine plants infected with *Xylella fastidiosa* in Apulia, Morocco imposed a blanket ban on imports of grapevine and fruit-tree nursery stock from Italy, a measure also extended to Spain, France and Portugal.

For the Italian vine-nursery sector alone, that decision led in 2024 to the destruction of more than 4 million plants destined for the Moroccan market, causing losses estimated at EUR 6 million. Efforts by trade associations to appeal to national and EU institutions have yet to yield results, and the ban is still in force.

This state of affairs seriously undermines an Italian sector which, following decades of investment, had become Morocco's main supplier. It is also worth noting that 60 % of Italy's grapevine nursery production is in Friuli-Venezia Giulia, an area still free of *Xylella* and more than 1 000 km away from Apulia.

In view of the above:

1. Will the Commission take steps to ensure that the principle of 'regionalisation', as laid down in WTO agreements, is applied?
2. To prevent a recurrence of the heavy economic losses already suffered, will the Commission take action to protect the sector?

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