

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000257/26
to the Commission
Benoit Cassart (Renew), Olivier Chastel (Renew)
(22 January 2026)**

Subject: Prevention and coordination measures to combat the Asian hornet

The Asian hornet is an invasive exotic insect native to South Asia, accidentally introduced into France in 2004 and present in the Wallonia since 2016. It spreads exponentially: each nest that is not destroyed leads to the creation of 10 to 50 new nests per year. Listed on the list of Invasive Alien Species of Union concern, it poses a threat to biodiversity, especially to pollinating insects and bee hives, as well as to public health, particularly for professionals working outdoors.

It also does significant harm to the economy: a nest can consume around 11 kg of pollinating insects in a season, jeopardising crops that depend on pollination. Some studies show this causes losses of between 5% and 25% of agricultural output.

1. What measures is the Commission considering to combat the spread of the Asian hornet? Is there any plan for closer coordination between neighbouring Member States, particularly in respect of monitoring, real-time data sharing and cross-border control?
2. How much has each Member State spent on measures related to the prevention, monitoring or destruction of nests since the start of the programming of the 2023-2027 Common Agricultural Policy strategic plans?

Submitted: 22.1.2026

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(24 April 2026)**

The Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Regulation ⁽¹⁾ sets out certain obligations for Member States, such as notifying new introduction and spread of IAS of EU concern.

These notifications are reported through the Notification System ⁽²⁾ of the European Alien Species Information Network (EASIN) ⁽³⁾ system that enables Member States to report on IAS detections and related measures. EASIN provides Member States with access to data harmonised from various sources in a timely manner.

Cross-border cooperation is encouraged, for example, through shared baselines ⁽⁴⁾, and the Commission can provide support at Member States' request.

Guidance ⁽⁵⁾ on managing pathways of introduction of invasive alien wasps was produced in 2021 and guidance ⁽⁶⁾ on surveillance systems was provided in 2024.

Under the current Common Agricultural Policy ⁽⁷⁾ Strategic Plans, Member States can provide support for the actions mentioned, primarily through specific apiculture interventions aimed at combating bee pests and diseases, and for cooperation on research programmes.

They can also use rural development interventions to restore agricultural production potential damaged by natural disasters and catastrophic events, and to introduce suitable prevention actions for farmers, including beekeepers.

However, the Commission currently lacks information on the amounts spent by Member States on these specific actions, as they typically form part of wider interventions supporting various actions through a common budgetary allocation.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species, OJ L 317, 4.11.2014, p. 35-55.

⁽²⁾ <https://easin.jrc.ec.europa.eu/notsys>.

⁽³⁾ <https://easin.jrc.ec.europa.eu/easin>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://easin.jrc.ec.europa.eu/easin/Resource/Baseline>.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/4cd6cb36-b0f1-4db4-915e-65cd29067f49/library/15427278-c6e1-4c20-ad87-8300eae67a6d/details>.

⁽⁶⁾ https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/4cd6cb36-b0f1-4db4-915e-65cd29067f49/library/bd952d43-2514-44df-b8cf-78bb20dfe584?p=1&n=10&sort=modified_DESC.

⁽⁷⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy_en.