

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-004725/25
to the Commission
Anna Maria Cisint (PFE)
(28 November 2025)**

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?

Submitted: 28.11.2025

**Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(16 January 2026)**

Morocco has introduced new *Xylella fastidiosa* (*Xf*) requirements, as notified to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Committee on 7 October 2021.

It introduces a ban of ornamental plants from countries affected by *Xf* and regionalisation rules for fruit plants from these countries. Besides raising the issue regularly as a specific trade concern at the WTO SPS Committee, a technical meeting was organised with the four affected Member States (Italy, France, Spain and Portugal) in November 2024.

During the meeting, Morocco clarified the approach used for regionalisation. If an outbreak is detected in a country, an export ban is introduced for host plants not only from the administrative region with the outbreak but also from the adjacent ones.

The EU has since then requested Morocco to notify the legal act defining this approach and invited Morocco to consider the type of regionalisation applied in the EU. While Morocco has not yet been open for this, the EU will continue to pursue this approach.

The *Vision for Agriculture and Food* invites the EU to be more assertive in promoting and defending strategically the exports of EU products as well as a reciprocal treatment to EU exports.

Based on this, the EU follows closely the agricultural markets and will continue to defend EU farmers and exporters when confronted with the misuse of non-tariff trade barriers.

The EU may also use various measures according to the applicable legislation, in cases of market disturbances. Furthermore, it is important to highlight that Member States have a broad array of interventions available through the common agricultural policy strategic plans ⁽¹⁾ and through national schemes with the use of state aids.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 435, 6.12.2021, <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/2115/oj>.