

**Question for written answer E-015215/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Jordi Sebastià (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Checks on diseases affecting citrus fruit

The failure to draw up uniform criteria applicable in all the ports through which citrus fruit enters the EU has led to shipments of fruit affected by canker and black spot going unnoticed.

Establishing one, or at most two, dedicated ports to handle imports of citrus fruit, with the resources needed to carry out proper checks, would reduce the likelihood of diseases entering the EU.

By the same token, inspections at the point of origin, which the US carries out on its citrus imports, would suggest that the EU has finally woken up to the need to monitor and eradicate diseases affecting citrus fruit.

What steps does the Commission plan to take to secure guarantees that citrus products are disease-free from their point of origin?

What checks are carried out in the EU ports at which citrus fruit is landed, and how uniform are the criteria which must be applied when checking fruit with a view to preventing the entry of diseases into the EU?