

**Question for written answer E-016108/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Giovanni La Via (PPE)**

Subject: Wild boar in Sicily: a problem which needs to be solved

Wild boar, which were introduced into Sicily in 1980, have colonised the wooded areas of the region and spread, over time, to less wooded areas and areas of garrigue throughout the arc of mountains which make up much of northern Sicily, reaching even into the most isolated areas. The wild boar is an omnivorous ungulate: in addition to eating acorns, roots, tubers, wild fruits, birds' eggs and hatchlings, earthworms and refuse, it also feeds in cultivated fields, causing substantial damage to agriculture. It also digs incessantly in the undergrowth, impeding the regeneration of woodland by preventing enough acorns from germinating. In addition to the damage to flora and fauna, interbreeding with pigs of certain breeds in Sicily has produced a 'hybrid' with a 'disgruntled' nature, characterised by excessive fertility and wildness. This is leading to the loss of a piece of heritage – an ancient breed of pigs – and, more seriously, in the summer of 2015 a person was killed by a boar.

Is the Commission aware of the current situation in Sicily?

What steps does it intend to take to resolve this problem?