

**Question for written answer E-014551/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Angelika Niebler (PPE)

Subject: Threat posed by the Asian long-horned beetle

Under Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/893 of 9 June 2015, wherever adult Asian long-horned beetles (ALB) or their larva are detected, all specimens with a stem diameter of 1 cm or more of 15 specified types of tree within a radius of 100 m around the infested plants have to be felled, chipped and burned. In Bavaria this has so far led to the destruction of more than 1 000 trees as a result of the presence of ALB.

Over the past 10 years, the beetle has spread in Germany, unremarkably and without causing significant damage, and it has not been proven to have killed any trees.

1. On what basis does the Commission consider the Asian long-horned beetle to be dangerous enough to be classed as a quarantine pest?
2. Are there other conceivable means of eradicating it, which would not require tree clearances on such a scale?
3. Would it be feasible to amend the Implementing Decision to empower the relevant authorities at regional government level, as the standard response to ALB infestations, to fell individual infested trees, with widespread felling of the 15 currently specified tree species occurring only in exceptional cases and subject to justification?