

**Question for written answer E-002778/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
André Rougé (Pfe)

Subject: Relevance of Commission financial support for the French-Brazilian initiative by Cirad and Embrapa to treat pathogenic fungus *Ceratobasidium sp.* in Guyana

The spread of the pathogenic fungus *Ceratobasidium sp.*, a new cassava disease, poses a major challenge for Guyana.

Identified last year, the disease is threatening an essential crop for the French department's food supply and economy. Cross-border initiatives have been set up to tackle the threat, including a French-Brazilian scientific partnership between the Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (Cirad) and the Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária (Embrapa). The partnership's goal is to boost research and develop agro-ecological strategies to halt the spread of the disease.

As the European Union promotes international partnerships to address global challenges, including food security, it is important to provide financial support for efforts to combat this new disease in Guyana. The outermost region is a potential gateway for a pathogen that could affect the entire European and tropical market.

1. In light of this, does the Commission intend to financially support cross-border initiatives such as the Cirad-Embrapa partnership to combat the pathogenic fungus *Ceratobasidium sp.*?
2. Does the Commission intend to boost plant health surveillance and research programmes in the EU's outermost regions in general in order to prevent potential farming and food crises in Europe?

Submitted: 5.12.2024