

**Question for written answer E-014022/2013  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Vine wood diseases

The incidence of diseases affecting the wood of grapevines in Europe, in particular eutypiosis, esca and black dead arm (BDA), is increasing at a worrying rate. Vine growers are concerned, and rightly so, as these diseases affect the trunk of the vine and sooner or later lead to the death of the vine stock. There is no known treatment at present.

While the rate of infection varies widely from one region to the next, in some regions over 80 % of vineyards are infected with esca or BDA. The percentage of vines rendered barren as a result is currently estimated to be approximately 12 % (affected vines causing loss of production, missing vines and vines awaiting replacement).

These diseases are therefore clearly jeopardising many growers' production assets and their long-term viability.

The extent and rapid growth of the problem have prompted a number of research projects in the various Member States, aimed at preventing, containing and possibly even eradicating these vine wood diseases.

What research and resources have been mobilised or arranged to date at European level to combat these diseases?

What action will the Commission take under the CAP to offset, at least in part, the losses which the sector has suffered, and failing this what resources can Member States mobilise within the framework of the CAP to do so?

Does the Commission intend to implement new research projects coordinated directly by the European institutions, for example under the agriculture section of the eighth FPRD?