

EN
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Answer given by Mr Andriukaitis
on behalf of the Commission
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The EU plant health legislation, i.e. Council Directive 2000/29/EC¹, regulates *Phyllosticta citricarpa*, the causal agent of citrus black spot (CBS) in order to avoid its introduction from third countries and spread within the EU. In addition, specific emergency measures for South Africa were introduced (Decision 2014/422/EU²) in 2014.

In 2014, the overall number of import interceptions of CBS decreased by 37 % in comparison to the number of interceptions notified during the 2013 import season.

Due to the recurrent number of interceptions of this pest on citrus fruit from South Africa during the 2015 import season, the possible need to revise Decision 2014/422/EU was discussed with Member States. They agreed to maintain the current emergency measures requesting an increased vigilance to South Africa for the 2015 season. From 9 October onwards, South African authorities have unilaterally decided to ban the export to the Union of citrus fruit originating in areas where *Phyllosticta citricarpa* is present. Finally, the number of import interceptions from South Africa has decreased in 2015 compared to previous years.

The Commission, together with Member States, will review the overall situation as regards CBS interceptions well before the next export season. Third countries with recurrent number of interceptions are approached on how to comply better with the EU requirements. Specific audits to evaluate the system of official controls and certification of citrus fruit for export to the European Union are planned by the Food and Veterinary Office in 2016 including to South Africa and Argentina.

¹ OJ L 169, 10.7.2000, p. 1.

² OJ L 196, 3.7.2014, p. 21.