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Ms Antonia Battaglia, Peacelink
Prof. Nicola Grasso, Constitutional Law, University of Salento
Mr Ivano Gioffreda, Presidente of Spazi Popolari
By e-mail only: antoniabattaglia@yahoo.it

Dear Ms Battaglia, Professor Grasso, Mr Gioffreda,

Thank you for your letter of 4 May 2016 as regards the recent scientific opinion of EFSA on *Xylella fastidiosa*.

The Commission has indeed adopted and strengthened the EU emergency measures as scientific and relevant technical information was made available. This has also been the case for the most recent amendments of some elements of Decision (EU) 789/2015 which were adopted on 17 December 2015 (Decision (EU) 2015/2417) and very recently on 12 May 2016 (Decision (EU) 2016/764). I am sure you are aware of the detailed scientific opinions made available by EFSA Plant Health Panel since the first outbreak notified by Italy in October 2013.

As regards specifically the eradication and containment measures laid down in Decision (EU) 789/2015, the legal provisions are based on the most recent scientific literature review made available by EFSA in January 2015 and further supported, on request of the Commission, by the recent EFSA Scientific Opinion of 31 March 2016 (Section 3.3, EFSA Journal 2016;14(3):4450).

In this respect, I can confirm that transparency is part of the procurement procedure to outsource the EFSA pilot project on the host range of the Apulian strain of *Xylella fastidiosa*, which is referred to in your letter.

Please be reassured that the Commission is aware of the ongoing proceedings in Italy and will take into account their conclusions as soon as available.

As Commissioner in charge of this dossier, it is my full responsibility to ensure compliance with the Treaty and to safeguard the Union territory from the further spreading of this very dangerous pest, while helping to preserve EU agriculture and the natural environment.

Yours sincerely,