

**Question for written answer E-006942/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: African swine fever in the Baltic

The recent news of another outbreak of African swine fever, this time in Estonia, following on the heels of two serious outbreaks in Lithuania and the detection of the virus in wild boar in Poland, confirms the legitimacy of concerns that the disease could gain epidemic proportions and spread to the rest of the EU.

Apart from the immediate losses caused by slaughtering livestock for health reasons, the presence of ASF in Europe could lead to closure of the European area and a ban on the export of both fresh and processed pork products.

After the ASF outbreaks in Lithuania and Estonia and the detection of the virus in wild boar in Poland, this new episode raises the possibility that the disease may spread further afield. It should also be borne in mind that Poland is a major exporter of pork and pork derivatives throughout the European area.

I therefore wish to ask the Commission what steps have been taken to control the disease, to prevent it spreading throughout Europe (particularly via Polish exports) and, above all, in order to remove the health risk to the region.