

**Question for written answer E-008205/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Jørn Dohrmann (ECR)**

Subject: Bushmeat consumption in Africa

The spread of Ebola across West Africa has raised concerns over the practice of eating bushmeat, which is common across Africa. The first victim of this latest outbreak was a two-year-old child from Guinea who contracted the virus after eating a fruit bat. Fruit bats are considered natural hosts for Ebola, and bushmeat hunters are often unaware of the dangers of animal-to-human transmission. According to the Centre for International Forestry Research, 5 million tonnes of bushmeat is eaten every year in Africa's Congo Basin. There are fears that, through the continued practice of eating bushmeat, new and more lethal viruses could emerge which may be even more virulent than the current strain of Ebola.

What steps is the Commission prepared to take to work with African governments to raise awareness of the dangers of eating bushmeat, and to promote safe and sustainable sources of meat within the countries most affected by the Ebola virus?