

**Question for written answer E-000312/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
José Inácio Faria (ALDE)

Subject: Diclofenac for veterinary use

Diclofenac is a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory, widely used as such in medicine, which can also be used to treat cattle. However, diclofenac causes acute kidney failure in vultures and in Aquila genus eagles, and ingestion of it leads to them dying in a very short space of time.

The use of veterinary diclofenac was the cause of the dramatic and abrupt decline in the number of vultures on the Indian subcontinent, causing a 97 % to 99 % reduction in their population in little more than two decades. These birds die of renal failure up to two days after ingesting the tissue of animals treated with diclofenac. This product is used in some Member States.

1. Does the Commission plan to request application of the procedure with a view to halting the use of this substance under Article 35 of Directive 2001/82/EC and introducing a ban on its production, marketing, import and use for veterinary purposes in the European Union?
2. Does the Commission intend to ensure that any approval and licencing processes take into account the potential threat to wild species in their risk assessments?