

**Question for written answer E-006622/2015**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Notis Marias (ECR)**

Subject:     Bluetongue vaccination for sheep

On 24/11/2014, I tabled a question regarding compensation for Greek farmers for losses caused by an outbreak of bluetongue in 2014.

.

Replying in behalf of the Commission, Mr Andriukaitis indicated that the EU bluetongue monitoring and eradication programme includes sheep vaccination, with the EU providing 50% of funding necessary for this and other eligible measures necessary for bluetongue eradication in Greece. An amount of around EUR 1m was provisionally made available to Greece for implementation of the programme in 2015.

Greek livestock farming federations now fear that a further outbreak of the disease is simply a matter of time and are calling for the immediate vaccination of flocks.

However it appears that, although the necessary funding has been made available to Greece, it is being withheld by the authorities.

In view of this:

1. When did the Commission officially make the above amount available to Greece for implementation of the vaccination programme?
2. What measures will it take to ensure the implementation of the EU-funded bluetongue vaccination programme for livestock?