

**Question for written answer E-006732/2015/rev.1  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Bart Staes (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Preventing the spread of a new disease in European amphibians

An exotic new amphibian fungus has entered the EU: *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans*. This new species is threatening biodiversity and the salamander population in Europe because of the fungal disease it spreads. Infection research experiments<sup>1,2</sup> have demonstrated that most European salamanders are highly susceptible to the disease and die rapidly after contact with the fungus.

27 of the 34 salamander species present in the EU are listed in Annex IV to Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive), and 18 are listed as either 'threatened' or 'near threatened' in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) European Red List of Amphibians (Temple & Cox, 2009). Accordingly, the decrease in the salamander population caused by *B. salamandrivorans* must compel the EU to take action in line with this legislation.

1. What measures will the Commission take to limit the impact of *B. salamandrivorans* on indigenous wild amphibian populations?
2. What measures will the Commission take to prevent the entry of *B. salamandrivorans* (for example by introducing mandatory quarantine and by testing or strengthening the EU plant and animal health regime in line with Action 15 of the EU Biodiversity Strategy)?

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<sup>1</sup> 'Chytrid fungus endangers Western Palearctic salamanders': <http://repository.kulib.kyoto-u.ac.jp/dspace/bitstream/2433/191082/1/science.1258268.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> 'Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans sp. nov. causes lethal chytridiomycosis in amphibians': <http://www.pnas.org/content/110/38/15325.full>