

**Question for written answer E-010588/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea (ALDE)**

Subject: Ban on the use of diclofenac in the EU owing to the threat it poses to birds

The use of diclofenac for veterinary purposes poses a threat to the various species of vulture found in the EU. The European Medicines Agency (EMA) took up a clear position on this matter in December 2014 and urgently recommended that the Commission should ban the substance.

This medicine wiped out 99% of India's original vulture population. Various studies have confirmed that diclofenac has toxic effects in other birds such as eagles. Bird deaths have also been linked to other pharmaceutical products such as flunixin in Spain and Greece.

In this light, and taking into account the Commission's efforts to protect these birds (67 LIFE projects, EUR 11 million invested in the period 2008-2012), as well as the fact that the EU and Member States have a duty to protect wild birds (Directive 2009/147/EC):

1. Is the Commission considering following the EMA's recommendation and banning the use of diclofenac in the EU?
2. Is the Commission planning to draw up a study covering all medicinal products that pose a risk to birds?
3. How will the Commission implement the measures proposed by the EMA in its opinion on diclofenac in order to prevent vultures and other birds from being poisoned?