

**Question for written answer E-003037/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Containing the bluetongue outbreak

Since a bluetongue epidemic affecting cattle, sheep and goats was identified in France in September 2015, we have seen how the disease has spread to 78 of France's 100 departments, with a total of 237 cases recorded to date.

In accordance with Directive 2000/75/EC laying down specific provisions for the control and eradication of bluetongue, France has increased the restriction zone to a radius of 150 km around the centre of infection.

Given the concern that the epidemic may reach Spain:

1. Does the Commission take the view that sufficient action has been taken thus far to contain and halt the epidemic?
2. Does the Commission intend to take action in support of the producers affected by the disease?