

**Question for written answer E-005992/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Notis Marias (ECR)

Subject: Preventive measures to protect cattle from outbreaks of lumpy skin disease in Greece

According to the Kozani Veterinary Department, a widespread outbreak of lumpy skin disease is affecting cattle in Bulgaria, FYROM and Serbia and is increasingly spreading to Greece especially Macedonia. Cases have also been recorded nearby around Mount Vermion in the Imathia regional unit.

For the purposes of prevention and livestock protection, the Veterinary Department is accordingly planning to vaccinate all cattle on farms in the Kozani regional unit against this serious disease.

In fact, there is no known cure for the disease and preventive measures are necessary to protect against insects carrying the virus, using suitable insecticides in stables, ensuring that livestock is not kept out in the open in the afternoon and evening, so as to prevent insect bites, and stepping up the monitoring of animal movements.

In view of this:

1. Can the Commission say what measures it intends to adopt in cooperation with the Greek authorities to prevent Greek cattle breeders being exposed to outbreaks of lumpy skin disease? When will these measures be adopted?
2. What measures will it approve to compensate Greek cattle breeders for losses sustained as a result?