

**Question for written answer E-008528/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
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Subject: Avian influenza

All the forecasts point to the possibility of another major outbreak of avian influenza in Europe. The most recent outbreak of the HPAI H5N8 virus this year was confirmed on 4 November 2016 in Hungary. This is the most virulent strain, which causes high mortality and is recognised as a zoonosis.

The virus had already been detected in wild birds in October 2016, not only in Hungary but also in Poland, Croatia, Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Denmark. The H5 virus has been reported in the Netherlands, but this occurrence has yet to be confirmed. France detected a total of 81 outbreaks of subtypes HPAI H5N1, H5N2 and H5N9 between November 2015 and August 2016, mainly in duck farms in south-western France.

Can the Commission provide information on the epidemiological assessment of this situation and the steps being taken to prevent another influenza pandemic in the coming winter?