

**Question for written answer E-000695/2017  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Norbert Erdős (PPE)**

Subject: What is the Commission doing to compensate producers for losses caused by bird 'flu?

The bird 'flu epidemic which is currently affecting most EU Member States has also caused serious losses in Hungary. Those losses exceed EUR 21 million. At more than 200 farms, 3.3 million birds have been slaughtered, the bill for this being EUR 11 million.

We know that the third chapter of the EU budget, 'Safety', includes a budget line on which the Hungarian animal health authorities may draw to finance action by the authorities. However, it is important that a corresponding amount should be transferred from the EU budget to compensate farmers who have suffered losses. The regulation establishing a common organisation of the markets (Article 220) makes this possible.

I would like to ask the Commission the following:

1. In the EU's annual budget, is there an actual source from which to compensate poultry farmers and, if so, exactly what amount is available for this?
2. Six days ago, a representative of the Commission stated in the European Parliament that the EUR 20 million available for dealing with the epidemic was not sufficient to meet the needs of the veterinary authorities. Will the Commission propose an increase in the relevant budget allocation at the time of the EU's seven-yearly review?
3. In the light of the recent crises, in order for European pig and poultry farming to survive at the current level, there is a need to expand the list of beneficiaries of coupled support in these sectors. Will the Commission make a proposal to this effect in the current negotiations on the Omnibus proposal?