ENE-004676/2018Answer given by Mr Andriukaitison behalf of the European Commission(15.11.2018)

As pointed out in its replies to written questions E-004203/2018 and E-004477/2018, the Commission is aware of West Nile fever (WNF) in the EU and monitors the situation in collaboration with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). It also hosts an alert platform that allows national authorities to inform blood safety authorities in other Member States of ongoing WNF transmission. As to WNF in animals, the Commission collects data through the EU Animal Disease Notification System.

The organisation and delivery of health services and medical care are responsibilities of the Member States. However, the Commission can, through different instruments, support Member States in responding to health threats. Decision 1082/2013/EU[[1]](#footnote-1) provides the framework to strengthen the coordination of response to health emergencies across the EU. The Commission Directive 2014/110[[2]](#footnote-2) lays down possible safety measures to minimise the risk of transmitting WNF through blood transfusion. ECDC and several EU blood services have also developed a preparedness plan for local blood services and authorities to help ensure no WNF infection is transmitted through blood transfusion.

The ECDC carries out regular risk assessments[[3]](#footnote-3) and published a Rapid Risk Assessment, discussed by the Health Security Committee, on the increase of a large number of WNF infections in the EU/European Economic Area and neighboring countries[[4]](#footnote-4), stating that further epidemiological and microbiological investigations should be conducted to better understand the outbreak, and to include options for response by Member States.

1. Decision No 1082/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2013

http://ec.europa.eu/health/preparedness\_response/docs/decision\_serious\_crossborder\_threats\_22102013\_en.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ%3AJOL\_2014\_366\_R\_0011 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Weekly updates: 2018 West Nile fever transmission season https://ecdc.europa.eu/en/west-nile-fever/surveillance-and-disease-data/disease-data-ecdc [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. https://ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/rapid-risk-assessment-early-large-increase-west-nile-virus-infections-reported [↑](#footnote-ref-4)