

**Question for written answer E-004779/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Foot-and-mouth disease in Mozambique

On Tuesday 25 September, the Mozambique Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security warned of the spread of foot-and-mouth disease in the country, exacerbated by illegal handling and failure to notify the veterinary authorities in a timely manner. By the end of July, the disease was present in several districts of Nampula, Tete, Gaza and Maputo. It has now been reported in the districts of Panda in Inhambane, and Guro and Sussundenga in Manica.

There are also records of the disease in neighbouring countries including Malawi, Zambia, Botswana and Zimbabwe.

The Mozambican government, in collaboration with the authorities of these countries, wishes to create a 'buffer zone' at the borders and has already announced a vaccination campaign for cattle in the areas in which the disease has been detected, a process which should cover 391 500 cows in seven provinces of the country.

Foot-and-mouth disease is a highly contagious disease among ruminants and swine, causing serious economic damages. It has been eradicated in Europe, where vaccination ceased in 1992.

We would like to ask the European Commission for its assessment of the situation and about the preventive measures being taken to prevent contagion from these African countries.