

**Question for written answer P-010474/2014  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Norbert Erdős (PPE)**

Subject: EU funding for avian influenza protection

The highly contagious H5N8 avian influenza virus has been found in three Member States this year. The cause was migrating wild birds. The virus may become further concentrated in places where wild birds winter, so that there might be an even greater risk during the migration period next spring than there was this autumn.

As a result of the EU's strict animal protection provisions, animals reared in a free-range situation or in open fields face an increasing risk, as do certain poultry species which are kept extensively, such as ducks and geese. It is therefore important that the Commission has the animal health monitoring system to report on the threat level and, where necessary, an EU-level disease control implementation plan, a compensation mechanism and, just as importantly, EU funding to implement these.

We must prepare now for the outbreaks of avian influenza which are likely in the spring. In addition, in the event of a new outbreak, the Member States and animal owners will have to take a number of very costly disease control measures. I am thinking here of the work of covering poultry runs with bird netting and the significant increase in the number of samples and laboratory analyses needed.

In the light of the above it is particularly important for the Member States, where necessary, to receive adequate EU funding to deal with an epidemic. I would therefore like to ask the Commission:

1. How much money can it make available to the Member States for disease prevention in 2015?
2. What measures is it planning to prevent the avian influenza epidemic likely to hit next spring?