

**Question for written answer P-015672/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Angélique Delahaye (PPE)**

Subject: Support measures to combat avian flu

There have so far been seven outbreaks of avian flu in south-west France. One immediate consequence has been the closure of many African markets, which are the destination of 'spent hens' (former laying hens slaughtered for their meat).

In France, nearly half a million hens cannot be moved. The egg industry now estimates the losses at EUR 1.7 million (abattoirs refusing to pay farmers for hens and in some cases additional costs invoiced to farmers). This is a problem. We need to find something to do with these hens quickly because future laying hens are already being reared for the next production cycles.

One answer could be to donate spent hens to charities as a way of avoiding food waste.

Article 220(2)(f) of the Regulation on the common organisation of the markets provides for support measures to be adopted, by means of Commission implementing acts, in the case of animal diseases affecting poultrymeat.

Does the Commission intend to implement such support measures in response to the worrying situation facing the European poultry sector? If so, when will it do this?

Could such measures permit slaughter, storage and freezing with a view to donating the meat to charitable organisations?