

**Question for written answer P-009317/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Bird flu: high risk on French farms

In France there has been an outbreak of a highly pathogenic strain of bird flu (H5N8), the risk level of which has been raised from 'moderate' to 'high'. This viral strain could cause problems for the health of French and European consumers and the flu could have disastrous consequences for wildlife. It could also have a negative impact on the meat trade in the EU and the outbreak could cause serious economic damage to local and European livestock breeders. A number of cases of H5N8 infection have also been found in Germany, Switzerland, Hungary and Austria.

Can the Commission therefore answer the following questions:

- Why have appropriate preventive measures not been taken, given that the virus appeared for the first time in November?
- What measures does it intend to take to confine and halt the flu and to check the state of health of wildlife?
- What measures will it take to ensure that European consumers are appropriately protected in terms of food safety, to avoid any risk of zoonosis?