

**Question for written answer P-009665/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Alex Mayer (S&D)**

Subject: Avian influenza in the UK

Poultry farms in England have been put on high alert after highly pathogenic avian influenza (H5N8) was confirmed at a turkey farm of 5 000 birds in Lincolnshire. Surrounding farms in Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Suffolk and Bedfordshire now face a high risk of contagion.

It follows outbreaks of the contagious H5N8 strain in Hungary, Denmark, Sweden, Austria, Germany, the Netherlands and France in recent weeks, which led to restrictions in these Member States, imposed by the Commission. However, the Commission has not adopted any protective measures in the UK, despite a clear westward spreading of H5N8.

With the recent outbreak of the avian flu in the East of England, does the Commission plan to adopt urgent protective measures in the UK?

For future outbreaks, will the Commission take protective measures sooner to avoid outbreaks in neighbouring countries?