

**Question for written answer P-002895/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Response to cases of African Swine Fever in the EU

The African Swine Fever (ASF) epidemic is spreading into new areas of eastern and central Poland, coming dangerously close to Poland's main pig-farming regions, from where it will easily be able to spread to western Europe.

Above all, the ASF epidemic is a tragic situation for pig farmers. It is all the more important, therefore, to compensate them for their losses and protect the farms from bankruptcy. Equally important is the biosecurity of the affected areas, but this presents numerous logistical, organisational and financial problems for the Member State and the regions concerned.

Given this situation, could the Commission answer the following questions:

Would it be possible to increase the financial support for farmers in line with the losses they are incurring, and to provide support for farms affected by ASF to help them convert to another type of farming?

What results have been achieved through the existing support programmes for affected countries? What has been the take-up by individual countries? And how does the Commission assess the Polish Government's idea to erect a fence on the eastern border to stop infected wild boar entering Poland from neighbouring countries?

Does the Commission not consider that, in light of the threat which ASF poses to EU farming, research projects on ASF (e.g. to develop a vaccine) should be treated as a priority under Horizon 2020?