

**Question for written answer P-001310/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: African swine fever - combating the disease and paying compensation to farmers

The spread of African swine fever (ASF) in the EU, in spite of remedial action taken by the Commission and the Member States, has not only not been checked, it has accelerated. Almost all the EU's eastern countries have already been affected, while the first cases in the west of the continent have now also been identified.

Discussions on ASF are often about the need to increase measures to prevent the disease spreading to other areas of the EU, but there is relatively little focus on the crisis facing pig producers in the areas already affected by the disease. Falling incomes as a result of low livestock prices, disposal problems and a lack of alternative sources of income are the main concerns – though by no means the only ones – of farmers in these areas. As a result, a significant proportion of them have had to close their farms, often with outstanding loans to pay and without any significant national or EU support.

Will the Commission consider introducing a special additional compensation scheme for farmers whose afflicted animals have had to be culled and to support a transition to other types of farming in areas affected by ASF?

What progress has been made in tackling the disease and what is the current situation as regards the use of EU funds for eradicating ASF by individual Member States?

Does the Commission see a realistic possibility for stopping the ASF epidemic through:

1. biosecurity measures funded by the Member States and the EU;
2. eradication of the disease, e.g. by coming up with a suitable vaccine?