Question for written answer P-002390/2019
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: African swine fever in Bulgaria

Some days ago, the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency confirmed outbreaks of African swine fever (ASF) on pig farms at several locations in Bulgaria. Teams of experts had visited the farms affected to take samples, which, according to the national reference laboratory at the National Veterinary Diagnostic Research Institute in Sofia, confirm the presence of the ASF virus. The epidemic has been spreading from day to day, including to a factory farm near Ruse, where approximately 17 000 pigs are kept. Despite efforts to pinpoint the source of the infection by tracking the movement of livestock, fodder and people, the Bulgarian authorities are finding it difficult to cope with the situation.

Is the Commission aware of the African swine fever crisis in Bulgaria and how can it help the country to deal with the situation?

Does the Commission envisage providing Bulgaria with financial support so that the farms affected can receive assistance?