

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0887/04  
by Bob van den Bos (ELDR)  
to the Commission

Subject: Health implications of pet bird imports

As a result of recent avian influenza outbreaks in several south-east Asian countries, the Commission has suspended all imports of pet birds from Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Pakistan, China, South Korea, Thailand and Vietnam. The suspension has immediate effect and is scheduled to be maintained for six months until 15 August 2004.

During the period of suspension, will the Commission carry out a risk assessment of the possible impact that the pet bird trade may have on the spread of avian influenza? Will the Commission also carry out a cost-benefit analysis of the suspension measures in relation to the trade in pet birds?

How does the Commission ensure that the quarantine and health checks carried out in pet-bird exporting countries, on the one hand, and those applied upon entry to the EU, on the other, are sufficient to guarantee that diseases such as avian influenza do not enter the European Union?