

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0833/06

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to the Commission

Subject: Special intervention in support of the poultry sector

Will the Commission take measures to support the poultry sector in view of the 'avian influenza' epidemic?

Farmers' organisations have recorded a 70% fall in consumption and a sharp decline in sales. Losses in the sector as a whole amount to EUR 5 m per day, and more than 40 000 jobs are currently at risk. The 5 000 companies, located mainly in Emilia-Romagna, Veneto, Lombardy, Piedmont, Marche, Abruzzo and Molise, employ 150 000 workers, with a poultry meat production rate of 1 134 000 tonnes and a meat consumption rate of 1 067 900 tonnes. The sector's turnover is estimated at approx. EUR 5.3 bn and the cost of production at around 75-80 cents for 1 kg of poultry meat. The damage caused to the poultry sector since September 2005 is estimated at over EUR 540 m.

The Commission has already in the past shown how careful and competent it can be in such emergency situations, especially in the case of the beef sector.

Do President José Manuel Barroso and Agriculture Commissioner Marianne Fischer Boel intend to take tangible and effective measures to support poultry farmers who are faced with a serious crisis?

Does the Commission intend to grant financial aid to all Member States hit by crisis, as in the case of Italy, in order to remedy the fall in exports of this specific type of meat?