

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1128/06
by Albert Maat (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: French state aid for farmers affected by bird flu

The French Government has decided to provide financial aid to French farmers affected by bird flu. The total amount of the aid to be provided is currently €63 million, of which €25 million is earmarked for poultry farmers affected and €30 million for other businesses in the industry affected.

In the Commission's view, is this state aid granted by the French Government permitted under European legislation in this area? In the Commission's view, is there no question of distortion of competition by the French Government in relation to poultry sectors affected in other Member States, which are not receiving such state aid? What role can the Commission play, and will it be playing, in coordinating (national) aid for sectors affected by bird flu between the Member States?