

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0433/07
by Anne Ferreira (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Further outbreaks of avian flu

Further outbreaks of avian flu have been detected in recent weeks, reminding us of the dangers we would face from this zoonosis if a mutated H5N1 virus were to become transmissible by air.

A number of scientific experts have expressed their views on this matter (see the recent book by Michael Greger and articles by our colleague Caroline Lucas) confirming the opinions of the World Health Organisation and the Food and Agriculture Organisation to the effect that the fundamental danger of avian flu arises in connection with the industrial production process and not domestic poultry or wild birds.

However, the Commission does not appear to be taking any account at all of these studies and opinions indeed I am very surprised that it is persisting in taking the opposite view rather than modifying its approach to the problem.

Does the Commission not consider it necessary to organise a forum at which independent experts could be invited to present their works and the results of their analyses to the Commission and Parliament after which the European Union could envisage new measures in the light of the fresh knowledge we will thus have gleaned?