

WRITTEN QUESTION E-5048/08
by Marie-Noëlle Lienemann (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Listeriosis outbreak in the European Union

The appearance of new strains of *Listeria monocytogenes*, the bacteria responsible for listeriosis, an illness caused by food poisoning, could be a new vector of contamination, as could the presence of new types of food. An increase in cases of listeriosis has been recorded in France, but the same trend appears to be occurring in Germany and the United Kingdom as well.

What preventative measures does the Commission intend to take, and what research does it intend to conduct, in order to curb the possible outbreak of listeriosis, 20-30% of cases of which are fatal?