

EN  
E-009475/2013  
Answer given by Mr Borg  
on behalf of the Commission  
(2.10.2013)

1. The Commission is not aware of the die-off of cattle in Italy described in the written question. Due to the fact that the *Clostridium botulinum* is not contagious, botulism is not included in the list of notifiable diseases of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)<sup>1</sup>. In a similar way, EU animal health legislation does not foresee the obligation for the Member States to notify it to the Commission, and disease prevention and control measures are taken on the bases of national legislation.

2.. A debate is on-going between the Commission and the Member States on the sporadic phenomenon of visceral botulism in cattle and the alleged but unproven causal relationship with biogas digestion residues.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.oie.int/animal-health-in-the-world/oie-listed-diseases-2013/>