

**Question for written answer E-002470/2014
to the Commission
Rule 117
Brian Simpson (S&D)**

Subject: African swine fever

African swine fever (ASF) is a highly contagious disease in pigs. In recent months the disease has spread from Russia to Ukraine and Belarus, and has now been carried by wild boar into Lithuania and Poland. EU pig farmers are worried that it could enter other Member States, as the ASF virus can survive for many weeks on objects such as vehicles, equipment and clothing.

Moreover, the EU's main export destination for pig meat – Russia – has blocked EU pig meat imports. This has created a surplus of pig meat on the internal market and has driven the EU price down. Farmers are very concerned that if the disease is not contained quickly it will have a negative impact on their businesses. They are also worried that other significant trade partners could follow Russia's example and introduce a ban on EU imports.

What actions is the Commission taking to prevent the further spread of the disease and to help the affected Member States with its swift eradication?