

**Question for written answer E-003018/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Gaston Franco (PPE)

Subject: Poultry carrying antibiotic-resistant bacteria

After testing around 100 chicken and turkey samples purchased from supermarkets, markets and butchers, the consumer association UFC-Que choisir has issued a warning about the presence of bacteria which are resistant to one or several antibiotics. The association's study, published on 10 March 2014, shows that, out of 26 contaminated samples, 61 % were carrying bacteria which were resistant to one or several classes of antibiotic. Despite the fact that leading scientists and public authorities have drawn attention to this major public health issue, European legislation and regulations in this area are still far from adequate.

1. In the light of these alarming findings, how does the Commission intend to follow up on the study, which has highlighted the magnitude of the problem in France, Spain and Italy?

The same study suggests that medium- and low-cost poultry products are those most affected by the problem of antibiotic resistance.

2. Does the Commission intend to introduce measures to tackle the problem of antibiotic resistance in bacteria which has developed as a result of the intensive use of antibiotics in farming, and thus protect consumers, particularly those on low incomes?

The UFC has urged the EU, in the EU-US free trade negotiations, not to accept any watering-down of European health standards in any area, whether it be antibiotic resistance, growth hormones or the use of bleach to decontaminate carcasses.

3. Will the Commission consider these recommendations, with a view to protecting the health of EU citizens as effectively as possible?