

**Question for written answer E-003382/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Nuno Melo (PPE)**

Subject: Danger posed to vultures by pharmaceutical product

It has been reported in the Portuguese media that drug authorisation authorities in Spain and Italy have approved the use of diclofenac for veterinary use.

Given that:

- The use of diclofenac has been identified as mainly responsible for the death of 99% of India's vulture population in the last 15 years;
- Most of Europe's vultures are found in Spain and Portugal;
- It is highly likely that a disaster could take place, similar to that which has occurred in India;
- Diclofenac is an anti-inflammatory drug which can be used to treat cattle, but which remains in the animal's body for some time after death and is highly toxic to vultures, which feed on carcasses left out in the open;
- Numerous alternatives exist which are not toxic to vultures;
- The veterinary use of diclofenac should be banned in the EU;

I wish to ask the Commission:

Does it not consider this a serious situation?

Does it not conclude that the use of diclofenac for veterinary purposes should, for these reasons, be banned throughout the EU?