

Question for written answer E-004284/2019
to the Commission
Rule 138
Ignazio Corrao (NI)

Subject: Eradication of the animal disease 'Lentivirus' in its 'Visna Maedi' form in sheep

'Visna Maedi' and 'CAEV' are viruses belonging to the lentivirus genus, which affects ovine and caprine animals (sheep and goats) and is transmitted through colostrum, contaminated milk, direct contact between animals in confined spaces and through the sharing of feeders and water troughs.

In July 2016, the Sardinia Region suspended the 'voluntary' recovery plan proposed by the Oristano ASL (local health authority) to which the livestock farmers in the area had adhered. As a result, the Visna Maedi epidemic is still present in the Oristano area to this very day, with the possibility that it might spread.

The Sardinia Region is required to draw up and implement a recovery plan to prevent the disease from spreading. The plan is being implemented through the 2013 Regional Executive Decision (DGR) No 39/29 concerning the eradication of the same disease in goats, but no plan has been drawn up for sheep.

Can the Commission say whether:

1. it is aware of this situation;
2. the suspension of the plan and the failure to eradicate the epidemic may be in breach of EU law?