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E-002727/2020

Answer given by Ms Kyriakides
on behalf of the European Commission
(3.8.2020)

Based on information made available by the Dutch authorities on 9 June 2020, precautionary measures such as compulsory testing on mink farms, prohibition of movements of minks, protection of workers in mink farms and culling of minks in infected premises are implemented following a risk assessment as regards COVID-19 in minks. Restocking of culled farms would need the lifting of the mink movement ban and compliance with sanitary requirements. The Dutch government is also exploring the possibility of a one-off, voluntary cessation scheme for mink farmers to terminate their operations in the short term.

A possible EU wide ban of fur animal farming in connection with COVID-19 would not constitute a justified and proportionate measure.

According to the information made available by the Dutch authorities, farmers would be entitled to compensation from the national Animal Health Fund for the culled minks. According to the Communication from the Commission “Temporary Framework for State aid measures to support the economy in the current COVID-19 outbreak”¹, it is up to the Member States to grant compensation to companies with the flexibility provided under applicable state aid rules.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/what_is_new/covid_19.html