

**Question for written answer E-006115/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: COVID-19 mutation on mink farms

Last June, Denmark discovered a new coronavirus mutation on mink farms. This discovery led to the culling of around 17 million mink, as, according to authorities, this mutation reduced the response of antibodies, which could affect the effectiveness of a possible vaccine.

Press reports have revealed that other countries are taking action; for example, it has been reported that tests are being carried out on farms in Ireland.

According to the World Organisation for Animal Health, six countries (Denmark, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Italy and the US) have thus far reported SARS-CoV-2 in mink used for breeding.

In the light of this, could the Commission answer the following:

1. Is it aware of countries that are taking action? If so, what restrictions and measures are being imposed?
2. Will all live trade in mink as well as the mink in the potentially affected areas be traced?
3. Has there been an increase in the number of cases and the virulence of the virus in humans in the affected region of Denmark?