

**Question for written answer E-006439/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Nikolaj Villumsen (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Coronavirus on mink farms in Member States

As the global pandemic has unfolded, we have learned more and more about coronavirus. We know that this disease does not respect national borders, and we know that it can be transmitted between humans and mink. The Danish health authorities have recorded the cluster 5 mutation of coronavirus at mink farms in Denmark. This is a mutation that risks reducing the efficacy of the vaccines that we are all awaiting. Because of this risk, the keeping of mink has been completely banned in Denmark until the end of 2021, as part of the efforts to limit infection.

1. Will the Commission ask the Member States to introduce comprehensive testing at mink farms?
2. Will the Commission ask the Member States to give public health a higher priority than the economic grounds for continuing mink production where the infection is found in mink?
3. What will the Commission do to put pressure on the rest of the world, not least major mink-producing countries such as China and the US, so that they also track and contain infection on mink farms?