

**Question for written answer E-006556/2020  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Idoia Villanueva Ruiz (GUE/NGL)**

**Subject:** American mink farms and their impact on the environment, animals and public health

After it was discovered that mink had infected mink farm workers and people living next to mink farms, the EU Member States seem convinced that these farms are a source of COVID-19 infection and should close down immediately.

As things stand, tests need only be conducted if symptoms are suspected, which is quite dangerous given that mink, as mustelids, can be asymptomatic, just like humans.

Besides this, the American mink has been singled out by environmental and conservation organisations and experts on many occasions as adversely affecting the environment and biodiversity.

Their impact, in the current context, is more than just environmental or an animal welfare issue as they are now vectors for COVID-19 transmission and constitute an additional risk for local populations and in combating the pandemic.

1. Does the Commission plan to launch a debate on the future of the mink industry with a view to extending the bans already in place in several Member States?
2. Has the Commission made any requests or recommendations to national governments for large-scale testing and/or screening to be carried out on mink farms and local populations?