

**Question for written answer E-007055/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Support for mink breeders and funding for safe alternative productive activities

The pandemic will continue to have a significant economic impact for a long time, despite support measures at European and national level. Among those hard hit are mink breeders, whose livestock is threatened by coronavirus while at the same time, according to specialists, new mutated forms of coronavirus pose an additional threat. The method of culling millions of animals shows us that supporting producers by paying for new livestock is not an adequate measure, since the animals again fall ill with new mutations which are very swiftly transmitted to breeders and, through them, possibly to the general public.

In view of the above:

1. Has the Commission examined the possibility of support to mink breeders from the EU budget to enable them to be employed in safe productive activities, putting an end to the vicious circle of the breeding and culling of millions of animals, which pose a risk to the breeders themselves?
2. Has the Commission funded research on the risk of mink breeding on large farms, which constitute ideal breeding grounds for the development of coronavirus mutations?
3. Should there perhaps be an integrated plan, with EU funding, for a change to the whole sector's activities now that it is clear that the virus constantly mutates, and does so in unexpected ways?