Question for written answer E-001153/2021 to the Commission

Rule 138

Jordi Solé (Verts/ALE), Diana Riba i Giner (Verts/ALE)

Subject: EU co-financing of the National Programme for the prevention, surveillance and control

of SARS-CoV-2 in American mink farms

The Strategy for the management, control and eradication of the American mink in the wild in Spain, with an estimated annual cost of EUR 1 886 640¹, is co-financed by the EU.

Even though another costly national Programme for the prevention, surveillance and control of SARS-CoV-2 in American mink farms has been implemented², outbreaks have been detected in three mink farms in Teruel, La Coruña and Ávila.

The last two infected farms were only holding 20% of their total capacity. The mink population will increase six-fold after the breeding season in February.

The infected farm in Ávila was not listed in the Register of Agricultural Holdings, which once again shows the lack of control in Spanish mink farms.

The economic and administrative efforts invested in the National Programme for the prevention, surveillance and control of SARS-CoV-2 in American mink farms also proved to be insufficient, having failed to prevent the spread of the virus in the country's three infected farms (10 %).

Given the large European investment associated with mink farming and the concomitant costs and risks, is the Commission planning to suspend funding until Spain corrects the excessive lack of control in its mink farms?

https://www.miteco.gob.es/es/ceneam/grupos-de-trabajo-y-seminarios/red-parques-nacionales/Estrategia%20de%20Control%20y%20Erradicaci%C3%B3n%20del%20Vis%C3%B3n%20Americ ano tcm30-169146.pdf

https://www.mapa.gob.es/es/ganaderia/temas/sanidad-animal-higieneganadera/programaprevencionvigilanciaycontrolsars-cov-2engranjasdevison_tcm30-556241.pdf