

**Question for written answer E-005260/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Gianantonio Da Re (ID)**

**Subject:** Epidemic of avian influenza, subtype H5N1, in the Veneto region. Urgent action required from the Commission to support the Veneto poultry sector

The highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) epidemic, subtype H5N1, is spreading through northern Italy, especially in the Veneto region, where the province of Verona would appear to be particularly affected. According to the newsletter of the *Istituto sperimentale delle Venezie*, there are 43 outbreaks and hundreds of thousands of animals which need to be culled. 2.8 million birds have apparently been infected by this avian influenza: most of them are meat turkeys, with some farms rearing laying hens and chickens.

To contain the outbreak, a protection zone of 3 km from the affected farms and a surveillance zone with a 10 km radius have been identified. Owing to the high pathogenicity of the virus, no poultry, captive birds or domestic mammals are allowed to enter or leave the facilities in the protection and surveillance zones without veterinary approval, and carcasses of dead birds must be destroyed immediately.

In view of the above, given that the current avian influenza appears to be more dangerous than the 2017 influenza, can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Is it aware of the difficulties being faced by the Veneto poultry sector following the outbreak of H5N1 avian influenza?
2. What financial instruments will it adopt to help Veneto poultry farmers cope with the repercussions on the economy and employment?