

**Question for written answer E-000392/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Slaughter of buffalo in the Campania region

Over the last 10 years, more than 140 000 buffalo have been slaughtered in the Campania region of Italy for suspected brucellosis and bovine TB. However, as emerged from a post-mortem examination, the vast majority of the animals killed were perfectly healthy. Only 1.3 % of the animals actually tested positive for infectious diseases. The carcasses of the healthy animals were then sold at below cost price to multinational meat companies.

This is the result of countless incorrect diagnoses, made using methods not appropriate for this species.

The solution to the indiscriminate slaughter of buffalo is a simple one, vaccination, but the Campania region does not currently seem to have any intention of listening to the demands of the breeders. The buffalo sector in the Caserta area, which is known throughout the world for the production of buffalo mozzarella PDO, is now on its knees.

More than 130 buffalo farms filed for bankruptcy after seeing most of their animals unnecessarily killed due to a regional plan approved in breach of national and European directives on surveillance, eradication programmes and disease-free status for diseases and vaccinations.

What steps does the Commission intend to take to put an end to this unnecessary slaughter?