

**Question for written answer E-001993/2022
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Annika Bruna (ID)

Subject: Anticipating the risk of mutations in H5N1 avian flu

Avian influenza outbreaks are becoming increasingly frequent, occurring in 2006, 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2020-2021 and 2021-2022. The ethically unacceptable confinement and slaughter of millions of animals is no longer sufficient to stop these epidemics,

and their frequency must also cause us to consider the risk of zoonosis.

Although the latest H5N1 virus is not, in principle, transmissible to humans, primary contamination can nevertheless occur after exposure to sick birds or a contaminated environment. Secondary, human-to-human contamination remains rare because sustained transmission between human beings of the viruses currently circulating is impossible.

However, should the avian influenza virus potentially mutate or recombine with a human influenza virus a transition, pandemic zoonosis cannot be ruled out.

I would therefore like to ask the following questions:

1. Does it consider the vaccines against avian flu to be effective?
2. Does it believe that the division of farms into breeder, ready-to-feed and force-feeder farms should be eliminated to reduce the movement of ducks between these different types of farm?
3. What measures would the Commission recommend if avian influenza were to become zoonotic, particularly for intensive farms?