

**Question for written answer E-003355/2022  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Aurélia Beigneux (ID)**

Subject: Avian flu sweeping through Europe: action to tackle the epidemic

The current avian influenza epidemic in Europe is now more devastating than ever, affecting almost 37 countries. The outbreak also seems to have crossed the Atlantic, with American and Canadian farmers also having to slaughter poultry.

Many outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza have been detected in wildlife and on farms in Europe, the majority being of the H5N1 subtype. Fatal outbreaks have been observed in seabird breeding colonies – a total of 47.5 million poultry and other birds have been slaughtered in the space of one year.

In response, EU agriculture ministers agreed on 24 May 2022 to implement an avian influenza vaccination strategy, and recognised that the cost of preventive measures could not be borne solely by farmers.

In view of this:

1. Is the Commission considering support measures for farmers forced to slaughter contaminated animals?
2. Does it plan to step up controls to limit imports of potentially contaminated poultrymeat?
3. What is the state of play as regards implementation of the European animal vaccination strategy, and what will be the role of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control?