Question for written answer E-003813/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: State of play of the fight against antimicrobial resistance and the role of new feed additives (e.g. bacteriophages) in achieving this goal

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) remains one of the key challenges facing humanity. It is estimated to be responsible for 33 000 deaths per year in the EU and 700 000 deaths worldwide. A contributing factor to the development of antimicrobial resistance is the excessive use of antibiotics in animal husbandry.

In its Farm to Fork Strategy, the Commission adopted the ambitious goal of reducing antibiotic sales by 50% by 2030. One of the most promising alternatives in this area is bacteriophages. Unfortunately, the EU is lagging behind in ensuring the availability of this very promising technology used in animal husbandry outside Europe.

In 2018, responding to a parliamentary question on the regulatory framework for bacteriophages, the Commission indicated that it 'is currently investigating bacteriophages as a feed additive under Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003'. More than four years have passed since then, and the aforementioned procedure remains unfinished, resulting in a lack of access to bacteriophages for European farmers.

I would therefore like to ask:

1. The Commission is working towards the use of bacteriophages, but the pace of work on their use is insufficient to achieve the desired goal. What is the reason for the slow progress?

2. When will the Commission submit a deadline for the inclusion of bacteriophages in the list of feed additives?

3. What is the role of new types of feed additives (e.g. bacteriophages) in achieving the objective of reducing antibiotic sales in Europe?

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