

**Question for written answer E-000014/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Gianantonio Da Re (ID)**

**Subject:** Increased outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in Europe: request for action by the Commission to support the poultry sector

According to the report by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) entitled 'Avian influenza overview September – December 2022', Europe has for more than a year been experiencing its 'most devastating' avian influenza epidemic, resulting in around 50 million birds being culled. In reality, many more chickens, ducks and turkeys on farms were lost because preventive culling is not taken into account. It is also the first time that there was no clear separation between two epidemics: the virus did not disappear during the summer and there were more outbreaks in autumn 2022 than in the previous year, with 35% more infected establishments.

Between 10 September and 2 December 2022, almost 400 outbreaks were notified on farms in 18 European countries, with the highest numbers in France and Hungary.

In view of the above:

1. Does the Commission not consider it necessary to act immediately to adopt further measures aimed at combating this epidemic?
2. Does it plan to adopt specific financial instruments to support poultry farms and farmers who are suffering huge economic losses?

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