

**Question for written answer E-001663/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Annika Bruna (ID)

Subject: Chronic avian flu as a result of intensive farming

In recent years, intensive poultry farms – already hardly known for respecting animal welfare and the environment – have been suffering from incessant waves of avian flu, resulting in affected farms regularly having to slaughter livestock.

Conditions on intensive poultry farms – whereby animals are kept in very high densities and in confinement – mean that when a virus infects a building, it spreads much more rapidly, even when farms are restarted!

There have already been 55 new outbreaks in the Department of Landes since 19 May 2023, with the majority taking place on intensive farms. However, smaller, open-air farms, spaced further from one another, would reduce the rate of infection between farms and make animals more resistant.

1. In light of such epizootic diseases becoming chronic, does the Commission intend to call intensive livestock farming into question, given that this model has become unprofitable and increasingly reliant on subsidies?
2. Does the Commission intend to favour smaller, open-air livestock farms that are spaced further from one another, thereby limiting infection rates and making poultry more resistant to this disease?
3. Will it finally impose the same health standards on imported poultry?

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