

**Question for written answer E-002890/2023**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Annika Bruna (ID)**

Subject: Tackling epizootic haemorrhagic disease

Epizootic haemorrhagic disease (EHD) is a viral illness that causes significant internal bleeding and weakens or can even kill deer, cattle and sheep. In the US, where the disease originates, it has a mortality rate of less than 1 % for cattle, but over 90 % for deer.

EHD is transmitted by biting midges of the *Culicoides* genus. These midges have infected herds in Sardinia, Spain and, most recently, the French Basque Country.

To stop the spread of the disease, exports of live cattle have been banned within a radius of 150 kilometres of affected farms. Derogations for the transport of animals are apparently being considered, in particular so exports can be continued to Spain and Italy, on the basis that EHD is not contagious if disinfection procedures are followed. These derogations will likely cause the disease to spread, however.

1. Will the Commission, in cooperation with the Member States concerned, help professionals acquire the refrigeration equipment needed to transport meat, rather than live animals, from contaminated areas?
2. Might this not be a way of testing, and initiating, a more general transition to meat transport?

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