

**Question for written answer E-002997/2023  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Joanna Kopcińska (ECR)**

**Subject:** Epizootic haemorrhagic disease and EHDV

EHDV is an insect-borne RNA virus that infects wild and domestic animals, causing an epizootic haemorrhagic disease that has been called 'cow Covid'. In recent years the virus has spread significantly (e.g. in Spain in 2022–2023, recent confirmed new outbreaks of diseased cows on farms in the north of the country). EHDV affects both domestic animals and wild forest animals. Unlike many diseases, EHD is not transmitted through mosquitoes, but through insects.

Although scientific data indicates that the disease is not transmitted directly from animal to animal and that humans cannot become infected through the bite of an insect or contact with an infected animal, the disease has been notifiable to the World Organisation for Animal Health since 2008.

1. Given that ruminant EHD is a viral pathology with significant consequences for the well-being of society and the economy, is the Commission planning to make appropriate recommendations for action in the event that the disease spreads more widely?
2. Does the Commission intend, via its executive agencies, to engage with Member States through the relevant veterinary expert forums to initiate a collective risk assessment in relation to EHD and EHDV?
3. Are there any plans to roll out an authorised EHD vaccine together with a framework for its recommended use?

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