

**Question for written answer E-003146/2023  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Angelo Ciocca (ID)**

**Subject:** Establishment of a protection and surveillance zone covering Pavia Province following an outbreak of African swine fever

Owing to an outbreak of African swine fever, the Commission's Implementing Decision of 31 August 2023 established a restricted area covering all municipalities in the Province of Pavia.

Unable to sell their livestock or move consignments outside of the restricted area, farmers are in dire straits, as they are incurring greater upkeep and disposal costs. In addition, because farmers have run out of room and their pigs are still breeding, their facilities are dangerously overcrowded, thus putting their livestock's welfare at risk.

Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 states that 'in order to be effective, the measures should be flexible and proportionate, without imposing unnecessary burdens on operators or competent authorities'.

Bearing in mind that Lombardy's farmers account for 4.1 million of the 8.7 million pigs that are raised in Italy, can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. How will it support Italian authorities in the operational management of the pig farms that have been affected, seeing as the surveillance area covers an entire province?
2. Given that paragraph 27 of the above Delegated Regulation stipulates that 'movements of ungulates must be limited to transports to a slaughterhouse', how will the Commission facilitate measures to detect the disease and transport livestock to temporary slaughter facilities?
3. Which funding instruments will it deploy to help the pig farmers affected overcome the serious economic difficulties they are facing and avoid the collapse of a sector that employs 40 000 people?

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