

**Question for written answer E-000086/2024  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Stefania Zambelli (PPE)**

**Subject:** Rise in the number of flu cases and related deaths in Italy

Just a few days apart, two people in Italy died of the A/H1N1 virus. H1N1, often mistakenly confused with swine flu, has been circulating every flu season since 2009. The main symptoms are a runny nose, sore throat, cough, fever, fatigue and breathing difficulties. In the most severe cases, these symptoms can turn lethal. A recent WHO report confirms that the mortality rate overlaps with the pre-pandemic level.

Hospital monitoring by general practitioners and paediatricians remains, in any case, important, as experts say that influenza causes 8 000–10 000 deaths per year, and 80 % of flu cases in Italy are currently caused by the H1N1 strain.

In view of the above:

1. Is the Commission concerned about the rapid spread of this virus?
2. What will it do to limit its spread?

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