

WRITTEN QUESTION P-4016/05
by Amalia Sartori (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Management of avian flu risks

Avian flu represents a worldwide threat which calls for coordinated, rapid action at European and international level and rigorous application of the rules on hygiene, public health and consumer protection.

It is the task of the European Commission to handle the risk management phase on behalf of the Union, and no Member State acting alone can adopt effective measures to curb the spread of the virus.

Would the Commission ensure that it does not underestimate the urgency of the avian flu virus situation and that it takes the appropriate measures to contain the risk of contagion and avoid the possibility of transmission to human beings?

Would the Commission take all appropriate measures to ensure prompt and proper distribution of vaccine, inter alia by preparing a general plan for managing the crisis?

Could the Commission say whether, in this specific instance, the early warning system is capable of giving rapid, effective notification of the risks?

Has the Commission assessed carefully whether the states preparing to accede to the European Union have fully incorporated the *acquis communautaire* in the area of public health and hygiene and consumer protection and, above all, whether European legislation on veterinary controls and animal welfare has been adequately incorporated into national law?