

WRITTEN QUESTION P-3488/09  
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to the Commission

Subject: Mexican flu

A number of cases of Mexican flu have been diagnosed worldwide, including in Mexico, the United States, Austria and Germany. There is consequently a risk of a worldwide flu epidemic. In order to prevent this it should be ensured that persons coming into contact with pigs or infected persons are vaccinated.

1. Is the Commission prepared to propose strong measures pursuant to which Member States would commit themselves to rapidly setting up a flu vaccination programme for people who may come into contact with the virus?
2. Is the Commission prepared to take measures to also help promote the carrying out of such a vaccination programme in countries outside the European Union that are confronted with Mexican flu?
3. The pharmaceutical industry needs to prepare for a possible pandemic, but supplies are inadequate. Could the Commission give a binding pledge to invest in the development of sufficient antivirals? In addition, is the Commission prepared to invest in the pre-development of medicines and vaccines in order to minimise as far as possible the effects of the possible pandemic? If so, in what way?