

**Question for written answer P-002444/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Help for pork producers - African Swine Fever

In response to the discovery of outbreaks of African Swine Fever (ASF) in the European Union, third countries have introduced restrictions on pork imports from the EU. As a result, the situation on the pork market is growing more alarming by the day. The drastic fall in the price of pigmeat and problems with exports are causing huge financial losses for producers; many have already been pushed to the brink of bankruptcy. Other negative aspects of this situation are massive job cuts in the sector and a fall in consumer confidence with regard to products containing pork. It should be stressed, however, that ASF poses no danger to human health.

In the case of Poland the discovery of ASF cases in wild boar has led to an embargo on Polish pork being introduced by, among others, our country's largest trading partners: Russia, China and Japan.

Action therefore needs to be taken to improve the situation in the pork market, both in Poland and the whole of the EU. Aid instruments do exist, such as the aid for private storage and crisis management measures referred to in Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament of the Council establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products.

Does the Commission intend to provide financial assistance to pork producers in Poland and other countries affected by the crisis linked to the discovery of cases of ASF in the EU?

Has any progress been made in negotiations with Russia concerning the lifting of the ban on imports of pigmeat from the EU?

If it receives compensation claims for losses incurred as a result of African Swine Fever, will the Commission pay compensation to producers, as happened in 2011 following the food poisoning outbreak caused by the EHEC strain of *E. coli* and the compensation paid to fruit and vegetable growers at the time?