

**Question for written answer P-003195/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Andrzej Grzyb (PPE)

Subject: African Swine Fever (ASF) - restrictions on exports to Russia and other countries

Following the discovery in Lithuania and subsequently in Poland, close to the border with Belarus, of dead wild boar infected with African Swine Fever, Russia imposed an embargo on imports of wild pigs and pigmeat from the EU. In accordance with EU rules, Poland set up a buffer zone, banning exports of meat produced within that zone. Since the infected animals were discovered, no cases of ASF have been recorded among the domestic pig population and no further ASF-infected wild boars have been identified.

On 14 March 2014 the media carried reports of live pigs having been exported from Austria under EU certificates which had been amended by hand to indicate that the animals were not from Poland or Lithuania.

1. Does EU law allow goods to be exported under non-standard documents that have been amended in this way?
2. What steps will the Commission be taking to secure the lifting of the Russian ban in respect of imports of live pigs and pigmeat from those parts of the EU, including Poland, that lie outside the buffer zone?
3. Given that no further cases have been identified, can the size of the buffer zone now be reduced, as called for by the Polish Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Stanisław Kalemba?