

**Question for written answer P-000477/2018**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Arne Gericke (ECR)**

Subject: African swine fever and the use of night sights in hunting

Since January 2014, according to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), African swine fever has been endemic and spreading in Lithuania, Poland, Latvia, Estonia and the Czech Republic. There is a risk of German pig herds contracting the viral disease, which is transmitted chiefly by wild boar. To counter its spread the EFSA has recommended 'targeted hunting, removal of carcasses in the wild and a strict feeding ban'. Hunting in border areas and in territory where wild boar populations are concentrated presents substantial challenges.

(1) Is the Commission in favour of 'targeted hunting' in border areas and territory where wild boar populations are concentrated, as a useful component of management plans to reduce this endemic risk?

(2) Does the Commission consider – in principle and without prejudice to the stipulations of individual national hunting laws – that the use of night sights, exceptionally and selectively, in the technically challenging task of hunting and culling wild boar in border areas and territory where their populations are concentrated, is worthwhile, or appropriate in the current situation?