

**Question for written answer E-003011/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Jan Huitema (Renew), **Asger Christensen** (Renew), **Atidzhe Alieva-Veli** (Renew), **Irène Tolleret** (Renew), **Charles Goerens** (Renew)

Subject: Bluetongue virus outbreak

The bluetongue virus is spreading rapidly in the Netherlands, with over 1 100 livestock farms reporting infections so far. More recently, symptoms of bluetongue have also been recorded on livestock farms in Belgium. Vaccination campaigns can be an important tool in helping to contain further outbreaks of the disease.

1. How is the Commission and/or the European Food Safety Authority monitoring the bluetongue outbreak, and can they provide weekly reports on the situation to ensure that Member States are aware?
2. In 2007, the Commission called¹ for an EU strategy for vaccination against bluetongue. What steps have been taken since then to ensure the availability of vaccines, especially vaccines against recent variants of the bluetongue virus?
3. What other short-term measures will the Commission take to limit the spread of bluetongue, such as setting up emergency vaccination campaigns and reimbursing associated expenditure by the Member States?

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¹ https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/animal-diseases/surveillance-eradication-programmes-and-disease-free-status/bluetongue/bluetongue-conference-vaccination_en.