

**Question for written answer E-015141/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
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Subject: Containing the outbreak of bluetongue disease

After having been free from the virus for almost six years, Austria has now detected three outbreaks of bluetongue serotype 4, two in Burgenland and one in Steiermark, all of them on cattle farms.

The authorities in Slovenia have also reported a bluetongue outbreak on a cattle farm in Sobota, in the north-east of the country. The origin of the infection is not known, although the case was reported just days after Austria confirmed its three outbreaks.

After cases of foot-and-mouth disease were detected in Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia, the Spanish government responded by prohibiting imports of meat and milk in order to prevent any possibility of the disease spreading to livestock in Spain and the rest of the EU.

Given the current situation in Austria and Slovenia, what steps will the Commission take to contain and halt the outbreaks of bluetongue disease?

What steps does the Commission consider necessary in Austria and Slovenia in order to curb the possible spread of this outbreak?