

**Question for written answer E-014797/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) classification of bluetongue

Bluetongue has recently been identified in the Auvergne region of France.

The fact that the OIE has classified bluetongue on a par with foot and mouth is causing major problems for farmers in the region. Almost 500 000 animals are currently subject to a movement ban, which is resulting in a major drop in exports, has sent prices tumbling and is pushing costs up. It is also causing problems as regards space to keep the animals, as well as financial difficulties.

Is the Commission intending to propose that Member States should adopt a coordinated stance with a view to calling on the OIE to change the classification of bluetongue?