

**Question for written answer E-015608/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Mireille D'Ornano (ENF)

Subject: Lumpy skin disease in cattle

The outbreak of lumpy skin disease among cattle in the Middle East, in particular in Syria and Lebanon, in the spring of 2015 appeared to have caught the European health authorities unprepared.

By the summer however, a growing number of cases of the disease detected in Greece had forced the Commission to introduce interim protective measures under Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/1423 of 21 August 2015.

Parliament was recently informed, on 4 December 2015, of a draft decision taken in committee to provide Greece with financial support intended to be used primarily for the purchase of vaccines.

The disease has therefore not been eradicated.

1. In view of this situation, can the Commission, either directly or through the relevant agencies, assess the health risk posed to European cattle and determine the origin of the outbreak?
2. With a view to protecting European cattle, will it be applying the precautionary principle and coordinating the quarantining of infected animals?