

**Question for written answer E-003259/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Drop in livestock numbers and fires

Arid conditions in Europe, coupled with high temperatures and lack of rainfall, are fuelling devastating wildfires.

France has experienced its biggest fire in 70 years, which destroyed 16 000 hectares of land and left one person dead. The situation is serious right across Europe. Monitoring through the European Forest Fire Information System shows that fires have laid waste 353 862 hectares of land since the start of 2025 – twice the surface area as in the same period last year.

Although animal grazing is a key factor in preventing fires, reducing the fuel load, changing vegetation patterns and supporting ecosystem restoration¹, livestock farming continues to dip downwards in Europe: between 2014 and 2024, the pig population dropped 8.1 %, the cattle population 8.7 %, the sheep population 9.4 % and the goat population 16.3 %².

1. What range of measures would the Commission propose to stem the downward trend in livestock numbers and hence mitigate the devastating effect of wildfires?
2. What other preventive measures would the Commission propose to effectively prevent and manage fires?

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¹ <https://civil-protection-knowledge-network.europa.eu/stories/value-grazing-wildfire-prevention-tool>

² <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/w/ddn-20250626-1>