

**Question for written answer E-005016/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Daniel Buda (PPE)

Subject: Fresh outbreak of swine fever

The Spanish authorities are investigating an outbreak of African swine fever (ASF) in Catalonia after genetic testing pointed to a strain similar to one being used in laboratory research. The origins of this strain of the virus are unclear, and the possibility of it having escaped from a research facility cannot be excluded. Although the disease does not affect humans, it constitutes a major risk for the pig-farming sector and European agricultural trade¹.

1. Has the Commission launched an investigation to ascertain whether the suspicions of this strain of the ASF virus having escaped from a research laboratory are justified?
2. What measures does the Commission have in mind to strengthen biosecurity and control standards at research facilities in the European Union and to protect EU farmers and the European livestock sector, thereby heading off major risks to the EU's internal market and food security?

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¹ <https://agrointel.ro/343778/ancheta-focarul-de-pesta-porcina-din-spania-ar-fi-fost-provocat-de-un-virus-scapat-din-laborator>