Question for written answer E-001047/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Cristina Guarda (Verts/ALE), Annalisa Corrado (S&D), Niels Fuglsang (S&D), David Cormand (Verts/ALE), Thomas Waitz (Verts/ALE), Maria Noichl (S&D), Anja Hazekamp (The Left), Tilly Metz (Verts/ALE), Sebastian Everding (The Left), Günther Sidl (S&D), Maria Grapini (S&D), Diana Iovanovici Şoşoacă (NI)

Subject: Avian influenza in Italy and compliance with animal welfare legislation

In 2025, over 699 avian influenza (bird flu) outbreaks were reported in European poultry farms. In Italy, 64 outbreaks were concentrated in regions where the Commission, in 2022, had already underlined a critical health and environmental threat due to the excessive number of farms. From 2020 to 2025, the regions of Veneto, Lombardy and Emilia-Romagna allocated EUR 266 million for culls and compensation, part of which comes from the European crisis management funds, such as the agricultural reserve[1].

A recent television investigation carried out by RAI – the Italian national public broadcasting company – revealed that hundreds of culls were carried out in complete violation of animal welfare regulations and with serious biosecurity deficiencies[2].

The public health risk cannot be ignored, given the recent evidence of virus spillover.

1. How does the Commission ensure that allocated resources are used in compliance with current animal welfare legislation?

2. What is the most recent data available to the Commission on the management of avian influenza in Italy?

3. How does the Commission plan to strengthen compliance tools for the allocation of resources within the planned revision of EU animal welfare legislation?

Submitted: 12.3.2026

[1] Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/453 of 5 February 2024 on exceptional market support measures for the eggs and poultrymeat sectors in Italy (OJ L, 2024/453, 6.2.2024, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2024/453/oj).

[2] RAI video report of 1 February 2026, https://www.raiplay.it/video/2026/02/Febbre-alta---Report-01022026-37f21f32-22cf-48c9-9c91-c13cbaae99e8.html.