

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001998/24
to the Commission
Kathleen Funchion (The Left), Lynn Boylan (The Left)
(9 October 2024)**

Subject: Lyme disease

Lyme disease is among the most common zoonotic diseases in Europe. Infected ticks and the disease are spreading geographically, with a significant increase in the number of cases even being reported in Ireland. The changing climate is suspected to be one of the contributing factors to the rise in diagnosed cases of the disease.

In 2018, Parliament passed a resolution on Lyme disease which included a call on Member States to establish an information and awareness campaign to alert their populations and all those concerned to the existence of Lyme disease, and invited Member States to call on the Commission's logistical support if needed.

What measures could the Commission take with regard to Lyme disease, which is described in Parliament's resolution of 15 November 2018 as the most common zoonosis in Europe and in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/892 as a high risk disease?

Submitted: 9.10.2024

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(13 January 2025)**

The European Centre of Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) collects surveillance data from Member States on neuroborreliosis, a severe form of Lyme disease. Moreover, it publishes tick surveillance efforts maps as well as maps showing the current known distribution of tick species across the EU ⁽¹⁾.

The EU4Health programme supports a coordinated surveillance in animals and the environment for cross-border pathogens (with implementation in the 2024-2026 period) ⁽²⁾.

In the context of this action, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has prepared a list of priority diseases based on a scientific risk assessment, which includes Lyme borreliosis ⁽³⁾.

For this action, dedicated EU funds have been allocated to Member States to carry out surveillance under a One Health approach. Furthermore, agents responsible for borreliosis are listed in Directive 2003/99/EC ⁽⁴⁾ as agents for which Member States must collect relevant and comparable data according to their epidemiological situation.

In March 2024, EU reference laboratories (EURLs) ⁽⁵⁾ for public health were designated by the Commission, as per Article 15 of Regulation (EU) 2022/2371 ⁽⁶⁾.

One of these EURLs focuses on high risk, emerging and zoonotic bacterial pathogens, which includes Lyme borreliosis. This EURL's work is financially supported from the EU4Health Programme.

In line with Article 168(7) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, the organisation and delivery of health services and medical care is a national competence. Treatment of the infection varies across Member States.

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/disease-vectors/surveillance-and-disease-data/tick-maps#surveillance-for-ticks>.

⁽²⁾ CP-g-22-04.01 Direct grants to Member States' authorities: setting up a coordinated surveillance system under the One Health approach for cross-border pathogens that threaten the Union. 2022 Work programme: https://ec.europa.eu/assets/sante/health/funding/wp2022_en.pdf

⁽³⁾ Prioritisation of zoonotic diseases for coordinated surveillance systems under the One Health approach for cross-border pathogens that threaten the Union. Published: 3 March 2023. <https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2023.7853>

⁽⁴⁾ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2003/99/2013-07-01>

⁽⁵⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2024/892/oj

⁽⁶⁾ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/2371/oj>