

**Question for written answer E-003951/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Tomáš Zdechovský (PPE)

Subject: Impact of new EU rules on cattle embryo imports

Through Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/351, the Commission has introduced a new requirement that breeding bulls used for embryo production must not be vaccinated against infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR). This requirement significantly limits the possibility of importing high-quality genetic material from third countries, particularly the US, Canada, Australia and the UK. However, embryo transfer is carried out under strict veterinary conditions in accordance with EU rules, and there has not been a single documented case of the infection being transmitted in this way.

Such a measure could have serious consequences for all European breeders and companies that depend on access to elite genetics to improve growth, feed efficiency, health resilience and meat quality, and thus for the competitiveness of the European meat sector as a whole.

In light of the above:

1. What specific scientific evidence led to the introduction of the obligation to use only unvaccinated bulls, given that current practice has not demonstrated the risk of IBR transmission through embryos?
2. How does the Commission assess the economic impact of this measure on European breeders and importers of genetic material from third countries?
3. Does the Commission plan to review or relax this legislation, for example by introducing exemptions, so that international genetic exchange can be maintained while ensuring a high standard of veterinary safety?

Submitted: 8.10.2025