

Question for written answer E-004448/2025

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: Effects of bluetongue in Bavaria and possible re-categorisation

At the end of September, plans for the adaptation of a number of regulations were brought forward in the EU expert group. These included a possible re-categorisation of bluetongue (BTV) from category C to category D. This would require an amendment to Delegated Regulation (EU) 202/689.

Under the current classification there are stringent restrictions on movement, and it is also causing economic problems for livestock farmers. Following the first case of BTV-8 in Bavaria on 21 October 2025, a restricted area with a radius of 150 km was established, affecting large swathes of Upper and Lower Bavaria. Cattle and sheep may only be moved after vaccination or a negative test plus repellent treatment.

If BTV were moved to category D, in future there would be no need for zoning or movement restrictions. Given the prevalence of BTV in the EU, it seems that this step could be epidemiologically sensible and economically necessary.

1. Does the Commission intend to adapt Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689 soon so as to give Member States more flexibility to deal with BTV outbreaks, for example by re-categorising the disease?
2. On what scientific or epidemiological criteria would such a reassessment be based?
3. Until the legal situation changes, what steps is the Commission planning to take to mitigate the adverse economic effects on farmers in the regions that are currently affected?

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