

**Question for written answer E-004621/2025**

**to the Commission**

Rule 144

**Sebastian Everding (The Left), Tilly Metz (Verts/ALE), Maria Noichl (S&D)**

**Subject:** Removal of the ‘vaccinate to live’ option in the context of foot-and-mouth disease

In the revision of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/361, the Commission intends to delete the reference to the Terrestrial Animal Health Code of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) in Part 4 of Annex VII<sup>1</sup> to the Regulation. This would mean that, in the event of an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), only emergency vaccination followed by the culling or slaughter of the vaccinated animals would be permitted in future. This would rule out the use of the ‘vaccinate to live’<sup>2</sup> strategy, which has been possible until now. The German Federal-State Working Group on Foot-and-Mouth Disease Vaccination Strategy, led by the German Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Rural Affairs and involving the Robert Koch Institute and the Friedrich Loeffler Institute, has spoken out strongly against this planned deletion.

1. How does the Commission justify the planned deletion of the reference to the WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Code in Annex VII, Part 4 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/361, which has hitherto allowed the use of emergency vaccination without subsequent killing, even in the case of foot-and-mouth disease?
2. Did the Commission take into account the technical assessments and recommendations of the German Federal-State Working Group on Foot-and-Mouth Disease Vaccination Strategy when it decided to make the planned deletion?
3. In deciding on this deletion, did the Commission take into account the fact that a new vaccine against FMD is now available<sup>3</sup>, which has been proven to prevent infection in cloven-hoofed animals<sup>4</sup>?

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<sup>1</sup> Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/361 of 28 November 2022 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and the Council as regards rules for the use of certain veterinary medicinal products for the purpose of prevention and control of certain listed diseases, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32023R0361>.

<sup>2</sup> Mackay, D.; Parida, S. & Anderson, J. (2004): Making a vaccinate-to-live policy a reality in foot-and-mouth disease, *Dev Biol (Basel)*, 119:261-6. PMID: 15742637.

<sup>3</sup> Friedrich Loeffler Institute (2025): FAQ Impfung gegen Maul- und Klauenseuche (MKS), [https://www.openagrar.de/servlets/MCRFileNodeServlet/openagrar\\_derivate\\_00063742/FLI-FAQ\\_MKS\\_2025-01-17\\_bf.pdf](https://www.openagrar.de/servlets/MCRFileNodeServlet/openagrar_derivate_00063742/FLI-FAQ_MKS_2025-01-17_bf.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.fli.de/de/aktuelles/kurznachrichten/neues-einzelansicht/erster-mrna-impfstoff-gegen-maul-und-klauenseuche-in-internationalem-projekt-erfolgreich-in-rindern-getestet/>.