

Question for written answer E-000272/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Galato Alexandraki (ECR)

Subject: Institutional transparency and EU supervision in the management of the sheep and goat pox epidemic and related agricultural aid controls

During the period 2024–2025, an extensive sheep and goat pox epidemic was recorded in Greece, with mass animal culling, movement restrictions and serious economic consequences for producers. According to official statistics, more than 430,000 sheep and goats were culled as part of the health measures implemented. These animals mainly belonged to small and medium-sized livestock farmers, established in rural and disadvantaged areas, where livestock farming is the main or even sole source of income.

The crisis was managed exclusively at national level, coinciding with the OPEKEPE scandal and ongoing European audits on the granting of agricultural aid. At the same time, there are significant discrepancies between administration statements and official statistical data regarding sheep and goats. In this light, and taking into account the need to avoid even the suspicion of a conflict of interest between health operations and administrative or financial audits, issues of institutional transparency and independence of procedures are raised.

Accordingly:

1. Does the Commission check consistency between epidemiological data, health decisions and administrative data used for agricultural aid audits and, if so, how does it do so?
2. In cases of significant discrepancies or the coincidence of health crises with aid controls, does the Commission intend to activate some kind of enhanced EU supervision or request the assistance of bodies such as EFSA, OLAF and the European Public Prosecutor's Office?

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