

Question for written answer E-001104/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Need for flexibility in the implementation of measures to combat foot-and-mouth disease in Cyprus

The implementation of measures to combat foot-and-mouth disease in the European Union is based on the principle of prompt eradication of the disease through strict health protocols. However, on an island such as Cyprus, with its limited livestock base, the large-scale culling of animals may have a disproportionate impact on the economy and on production.

Cyprus's situation is unique, in that the Member State is both an island and at the same time under partial occupation, with 37 % of its northern territory not under the Republic of Cyprus's control, which poses additional challenges.

In view of this, can the Commission answer the following:

1. What is the Commission's assessment of the proportionality of the implementation of the existing foot-and-mouth disease protocols in small island Member States such as Cyprus?
2. Can the Commission consider granting Cyprus specific flexibility, taking into account the country's specific geographical and political circumstances, allowing for the implementation of alternative disease containment strategies, such as targeted vaccination policies and enhanced monitoring measures, to avoid the large-scale culling of asymptomatic animals?

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