

**Question for written answer E-001111/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Michalis Hadjipantela (PPE)

Subject: Foot-and-mouth disease and issues regarding practical implementation of the legislation

Concerns expressed by farmers in Cyprus about foot-and-mouth disease highlight practical issues with the implementation of disease control measures provided for in the legislation.

Pursuant to Article 12(1)(a) of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687, following the confirmation of an outbreak of a category A disease in an establishment, the competent authority orders the culling of all animals of listed species in the affected establishment. However, Article 12(4) provides for the possibility of a derogation based on a risk assessment, including when emergency vaccination is introduced, in accordance with Article 69 of Regulation (EU) 2016/429. In practice, cases may arise where most of the animals on a livestock farm have already been vaccinated and only a limited number of animals were infected prior to vaccination.

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

1. How does it interpret the application of Article 12(1) and (4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 in cases where vaccination has already been carried out and infection is confirmed only in a limited number of animals?
2. Under what conditions can the competent authority, following a risk assessment, limit culling to infected animals only rather than ordering the culling of all animals on the farm?
3. Does it intend to issue further guidelines to Member States on the proportionate application of disease control measures on vaccinated flocks?

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