

**Question for written answer E-001184/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Konstantinos Arvanitis (The Left)

Subject: Outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Lesbos and the need for immediate European assistance

The outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Lesbos highlights the vulnerability of island and border regions in the European Union in the face of health crises affecting primary production. Small and medium-sized farmers are confronted with livestock losses and restrictions on their activity, and their economic survival is at serious risk, without adequate support from the EU.

The European Commission's response seems to be limited to the implementation of pre-existing protocols and assistance upon request, without a clear commitment to prompt funding or full compensation. However, this approach shifts the burden of the crisis onto Member States and producers, exacerbating regional disparities and undermining the viability of the rural economy.

Protecting the health of livestock, ensuring food security and supporting rural communities cannot and should not be treated solely as technical issues, but require immediate, coordinated and adequately funded European intervention.

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

1. Why are European immediate intervention mechanisms not activated pre-emptively?
2. Will it immediately mobilise European funds to fully compensate livestock farmers in Lesbos and strengthen public veterinary services?
3. Will it cover the costs of the necessary sanitary measures?

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