

Question for written answer E-001211/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Kostas Papadakis (NI)

Subject: Outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease on the island of Lesbos and compensation for affected farmers

Lesbos' livestock farmers are under siege, as the government has imposed a full and universal lockdown due to foot-and-mouth disease, banning all livestock products from leaving the island.

It is clear that the notorious 'flexibility' of the common agricultural policy guidelines supports the complete exclusion of Lesbos with the government stubbornly refusing to vaccinate, despite clear recommendations and guidance from EFSA.

The sole criterion in both cases is that the export certificates of the four or five major dairy factories making Feta cheese should not be jeopardised in any way.

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

1. Is it true, as the Greek Government has alleged, that the European Commission itself imposed a total ban on all livestock products, even processed products, leaving the entire island of Lesbos?
2. Where does the Commission stand on the need for immediate and full (100 %) compensation for those affected, for the replacement of income lost by livestock farmers who cannot sell their products (milk, meat), and for effective protection measures (such as vaccination and full staffing of veterinary services with permanent staff)?

Submitted: 24.3.2026