

**Question for written answer E-003314/2026  
to the Commission**  
Rule 144  
**Nikos Pappas (The Left)**

**Subject:** Greek restrictions on repopulation of livestock holdings and their compatibility with EU law

For many years now, Greece has faced serious zoonotic diseases that have had devastating consequences, especially for sheep and goat farming. Following the mass culls in the wake of the sheep and goat pox outbreak, thousands of holdings have been left with no productive livestock and the sector is unable to recover.

Regulation (EU) 2020/687 provides for a monitoring period of 21 days for the repopulation of a holding after a pox outbreak, subject to certain health conditions. However, the Greek authorities are saying that, in Greece, repopulation is allowed six months after the last outbreak recorded in the country.

Prolonged restrictions entail a risk of permanent abandonment of the sector, as well as making it virtually impossible to establish new holdings and include new livestock farmers in the Young Farmers programme.

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

1. To what extent is the horizontal restriction of six months for the repopulation or establishment of new livestock holdings compatible with EU law, in particular when it is enforced without individual epidemiological assessments being carried out and goes beyond the requirements laid down in Regulation (EU) 2016/429 and the relevant EU framework?
2. How far can the national authorities go in imposing additional or stricter measures than those provided for in EU law?
3. Does it intend to ask the Greek authorities to review the existing framework and the application of a proportionate and science-based protocol for safe repopulation that takes individual epidemiological circumstances into account while ensuring the protection of young livestock farmers and beneficiaries of the Young Farmers programme?

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