

**Question for written answer E-004002/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Konstantinos Arvanitis (The Left)

Subject: Utilising applicable derogations for foot-and-mouth disease in Lesvos

The prolonged foot-and-mouth disease epidemic in Lesvos and the resulting restrictions – which have been in place for several months now – have led to significant livestock losses and serious repercussions for the island's livestock farming and economy.

Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 provides, under certain conditions, for derogations from specific control measures. Article 13 allows for a derogation from mandatory culling for specific categories of animals, including registered rare breeds or animals of high genetic value. Articles 28 and 43 provide for derogations from prohibitions of movements in protection and surveillance zones, while Article 56, as amended by Regulation (EU) 2026/322, allows for additional derogations when restrictions are significantly prolonged.

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

1. Have the Greek authorities disclosed the granting or consideration of a derogation under Article 13 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 for animals of the Lesvos sheep breed, which is of high genetic value?
2. Has the application of Article 56 of Regulation (EU) 2020/687, as amended by Regulation (EU) 2026/322, been considered for operations where, following a risk assessment and the required controls, the risk of spread is considered negligible?
3. Given the duration of the restrictions and Cyprus' recent experience, under what conditions does Regulation (EU) 2020/687 permit the movement of animals from uninfected holdings for slaughter and the placing of fresh meat on the market, and have the Greek authorities sought guidance from the Commission in this regard?

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