

**Question for written answer E-004046/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Sakis Arnaoutoglou (S&D)

Subject: Creation of an unemployment fund for farmers and livestock farmers for periods when they are forced to stop working

The sheep and goat pox epizootic in Greece has led to compulsory herd culls and a months-long ban on the restocking of livestock farms. Affected farmers are deprived not only of their livestock but also of any possibility of finding gainful employment.

Exceptional compensation for culled animals does not replace a permanent income replacement mechanism. Meanwhile, professional farmers and livestock farmers who are insured by e-EFKA and previously by the former agricultural insurance organisation (OGA), are not eligible for unemployment benefits for self-employed persons, unlike other categories of self-employed persons.

Council Recommendation 2019/C-387/01 includes unemployment benefits in the field of social protection and calls on Member States to ensure effective coverage for the self-employed. In Spain, the fifth additional provision of Royal Decree 1541/2011 explicitly recognises the period of eradication of a disease in livestock farms as a temporary cessation of activity that is eligible for coverage.

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

1. When monitoring the implementation of Recommendation 2019/C-387/01, did it assess the exclusion of persons insured by the former OGA from unemployment protection in Greece?
2. Does it believe that the Spanish system can be a good practice for providing coverage to farmers and livestock farmers who are forced to temporarily stop working due to the outbreak of an animal disease?
3. Does it intend to call on Greece to set up a dedicated unemployment fund for farmers and livestock farmers and point to the available European financial or technical tools that could support its creation and operation?

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