

**Question for written answer E-004204/2026  
to the Commission**  
Rule 144  
**Nikolas Farantouris (S&D)**

**Subject:** Serological tests to be carried out in nine regions of Greece for sheep and goat pox

On 1 October, Circular no 250901/1.10.2026 was issued by the Directorate General of Veterinary Medicine in the Ministry of Rural Development and Food, announcing the implementation of serological tests in nine regions of Greece by the end of 2026, in order to detect any sheep and goat pox virus antibodies<sup>1</sup>. The circular was issued following the online meeting of the EU Veterinary Emergency Team (EUVET) on 15 July 2026 and, subsequently, the meeting of the European Commission's Standing Committee on Animal Health and Welfare on 17 and 18 September 2026<sup>2</sup>.

The announcement of the serological testing programme has caused great concern among the competent authorities and livestock farmers, especially in relation to the management of animals and farms in which sheep and goat pox antibodies are detected<sup>3</sup>.

Given the enormous blow that the livestock sector in Greece has already suffered with the culling of hundreds of thousands of animals since August 2024:

1. Does the Commission agree with the serological testing programme?
2. Has the Commission been informed of the applicable protocols regarding performance of the tests, confirmation of cases, treatment of any diagnostic errors, distinguishing antibodies due to vaccination and the management of positive or uncertain serological results?
3. Has the Commission been notified of specific compensatory measures for farms which may be subject to culling?

Submitted: 15.10.2026

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<sup>1</sup> <https://thessalikigi.gr/vomva-ypaat-me-enarxi-orologikon-elegchon-se-9-perifereies-gia-tin-evlogia-ton-aigoprovaton/>.

<sup>2</sup> [https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/f28dabb5-717b-4756-9243-0d48cbf1129e\\_en?filename=reg-com\\_ahw\\_20260917\\_agenda.pdf](https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/f28dabb5-717b-4756-9243-0d48cbf1129e_en?filename=reg-com_ahw_20260917_agenda.pdf),  
[https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/966fb84d-34e5-4a33-a210-0b1ce6636234\\_en?filename=reg-com\\_ahw\\_20260917\\_pres-13.pdf](https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/966fb84d-34e5-4a33-a210-0b1ce6636234_en?filename=reg-com_ahw_20260917_pres-13.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> <https://geotee.gr/2026/10/09/geot-e-e-evlogia-ton-aigoprovaton-amesi-kai-epitaktiki-i-anagki-gia-ti-lipsi-metron-sto-plaisio-enos-olokliromenou-schediou-antimetopisis-tis-nosou/>, <https://neosagon.gr/panellinia-enosi-ktiniatron-dimosion-ypallilon-i-oroepitirisi-tis-evlogias-apaitei-safes-stratigiko-schedio/>,  
<https://www.ot.gr/2026/10/12/agro/etheas-oxi-sti-thanatosi-zoon-me-fysiki-anosia-stin-eylogia-provaton/>,  
<https://www.ellinasagrotis.gr/kinitopoiiseis/782039/panelladiki-epitropi-mplokon-emvoliasmoi-kai-plireis-apozimioseis-gia-toys-ktinotrofoys/>.