

**Priority question for written answer P-003369/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: The disastrous handling of the foot-and-mouth epizootic on Lesbos and the abandonment of struggling livestock farmers

The situation on the island of Lesbos is extremely tense, with producers still waiting to be paid.

The policy of the Greek Government and the local regional authority, which is based on the common agricultural policy of the EU, provides for 'flexible adjustments and options for Member States' when these concern monopoly profits and fiscal adjustment.

This policy is irrational and questions the need for the State to take necessary action.

'Prevention'-based reasoning does not hold water given how scantily staffed the veterinary service is. The Government refuses to allow vaccination even though it is being used in Cyprus, for example, and has led to a reduction in herd culls. The EU Veterinary Emergency Team in Lesbos has spoken about the need to develop a (suppressive and protective) vaccination strategy, as France has done, to control lumpy skin disease in cattle.

While Nea Dimokratia spends billions on military equipment to meet its NATO commitments, livestock farmers have not seen a single cent, and there is a significant disparity in compensation between Greece and Cyprus, with the former paying up to EUR 250 per animal while the latter pays up to EUR 420 per animal.

In view of the above, where does the Commission stand:

1. on the dramatic situation in Lesbos and the fact that the Government and the local regional authority are claiming that they are promoting EU policy with tragic consequences such as the ones described?
2. on the differing rates of progress between Greece and Cyprus and the different management and compensation policies adopted by the two countries?
3. on the urgent need to immediately and fully compensate livestock farmers for the entirety of the damage suffered, to secure their lost income and to finance a comprehensive repopulation plan?

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