

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001850/24
to the Commission
Cristina Maestre (S&D), Nacho Sánchez Amor (S&D)
(27 September 2024)**

Subject: Co-financing for bluetongue serotype 3 vaccines in the Union

Animal diseases are one of the major challenges and threats facing livestock farming. The impact of restrictions on movement and economic losses due to the closure of export markets have left the affected livestock sectors in an extremely precarious situation. Now thousands of farms across the Union are suffering from a range of epizootic diseases.

As regards the threat posed by the emergence and spread of new bluetongue virus serotypes in many EU territories, the spread of serotype 3 is particularly dangerous.

Given how effective vaccines have proven to be in preventing and controlling this disease, and given the spread of serotype 3:

Does the Commission intend to co-finance vaccination against this disease in the Member States concerned, as has been done successfully in the past, in accordance with the principle of prevention?

Submitted: 27.9.2024

**Answer given by Ms Kyriakides on behalf of the European Commission
(15 November 2024)**

While infection with bluetongue virus (BTV) is a disease regulated by Regulation (EU) 2016/429 on transmissible animal diseases ('Animal Health Law') ⁽¹⁾, Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1882 ⁽²⁾ categorises BTV as a category C disease. As such, it is a disease subject to optional eradication by the Member States, with the objective of gaining disease-free status.

That option is subject to the decision of the competent authorities of the Member States that may vary depending on the Member State in question. BTV is therefore no longer subject to compulsory immediate eradication despite this having been the case under previous EU rules.

As it is a disease subject to optional eradication, EU funding for BTV, including vaccination, is not envisaged for 2024, nor for 2025 to 2027 BTV eradication programmes in accordance with EU rules ⁽³⁾, neither for emergency measures given that financial resources are allocated to the control and eradication of other major priority animal diseases such as highly pathogenic avian influenza or African swine fever, peste des petits ruminants or sheep and goat pox.

⁽¹⁾ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/429/oj>

⁽²⁾ http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2018/1882/oj

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/690 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing a programme for the internal market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, the area of plants, animals, food and feed, and European statistics (Single Market Programme) and the work programmes (adopted as Commission Implementing Decision C(2022) 3467 of 2.6.2022 for 2023-2024) and Commission Implementing Decision C(2024) 2098 of 2.8.2024 for 2025-2027).