

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002156/24
to the Commission**

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(17 October 2024)

Subject: Extraordinary measures to help the livestock sector to deal with bluetongue disease, bovine tuberculosis and epizootic haemorrhagic disease (EHD)

The spread of outbreaks of bluetongue disease, bovine tuberculosis and epizootic haemorrhagic disease (EHD) in Europe is causing uncertainty and losses for the livestock sector. Neither national nor regional governments have the resources to carry out vaccinations and other measures.

In the light of the above:

1. To enable regional governments from Spain to get to grips with outbreaks of those diseases, does the Commission intend to authorise extraordinary mechanisms so that they can obtain additional resources?
2. Has the Spanish Government asked the Commission for help with tackling the outbreaks of bluetongue, bovine tuberculosis and epizootic haemorrhagic disease (EHD)?

Submitted: 17.10.2024

Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(6 January 2025)

1. EU funding for bluetongue, bovine tuberculosis or epizootic haemorrhagic disease (EHD) veterinary programmes or emergency measures is not envisaged for 2024, nor for 2025 to 2027 in accordance with EU rules ⁽¹⁾ as those financial resources are allocated to the control and eradication of other major priority animal diseases. The Commission does not plan additional extraordinary mechanisms under the referred instrument.

As mentioned in reply to Written Question E-001819/2024, P-002410/2024 and E-002019/2024, support can be provided under the common market Organisation, Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plans, rural development programmes, and in line with Union state aid rules.

2. As the competent authorities from Spain have a long experience dealing with bovine tuberculosis and vector borne diseases as bluetongue or EHD, no specific requests were made to support the eradication of these diseases.

⁽¹⁾ 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).