

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002242/24
to the Commission
Emmanouil Kefalogiannis (PPE)
(24 October 2024)**

Subject: Immediate compensation for Greek livestock farmers to deal with the sheep and goat pox outbreak

Greece is facing yet another serious epidemiological threat, as there has been a spike in cases of sheep and goat pox, a highly contagious animal disease. So far, 104 hotspots have been identified, 81 of which are in parts of Evros, while the rest are in Komotini, Xanthi, Kavala, Serres, Magnesia and Korinthia. In recent days, the mortality rate has shot up, taking on worrying proportions. Meanwhile, 17 500 sheep have been culled, in compliance with EU law. The Greek Government and the Ministry of Rural Development and Food took swift measures to ensure the safety of the animals and livestock farmers.

Given the huge losses endured by Greek livestock farmers in terms of livestock and income, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Does it plan to provide emergency financial support to fully and directly compensate Greek livestock farmers for the losses they have suffered as a result of the pox outbreak?
2. What measures does it intend to take to prevent the disease from spreading through the EU, and, in particular, in Greece?
3. Does it have any information concerning imports of sheep from Türkiye to Europe and the inadequate checks that are being carried out by Türkiye?

Submitted: 24.10.2024

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

In case of outbreaks of Category A diseases ⁽¹⁾, such as sheep and goat pox (SGP), costs incurred by the Member States for emergency measures for disease control which must be implemented under Regulation (EU) 2016/429 ‘Animal Health Law’ ⁽²⁾, can be co-financed under the Commission’s Single Market Programme.

This includes in particular the costs related to culling or slaughtering of the animals in the affected farms (which include the compensation for their owners) and cleaning, disinfection and disinsectisation of the affected premises.

Those control measures are eligible for EU co-financing of up to 30% according to Regulation (EC) No 2021/690 ⁽³⁾ and Commission Implementing Decision C(2023) 8926 ⁽⁴⁾, Annex 3 ⁽⁵⁾.

Further EU financial support for SGP surveillance in high-risk areas is available through two co-financed programmes, the Transboundary Animal Diseases and the Trans-boundary High Risk Area Coordinated Epidemio-surveillance Programme.

In addition, in line with Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 ⁽⁶⁾, Greece may provide support for investments in preventive actions and restoration of agricultural potential, through their Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan 2023-2027 ⁽⁷⁾ or by allocating funds to enhance the biosecurity of livestock through their CAP Strategic Plan ⁽⁸⁾.

SGP control measures at EU level are laid down in Regulations (EU) 2016/429 and (EU) 2020/687 ⁽⁹⁾. Additional measures for SGP in Greece are laid down in Commission Implementing Decision 2024/2207 ⁽¹⁰⁾.

⁽¹⁾ http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2018/1882/oj

⁽²⁾ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/429/oj>

⁽³⁾ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/690/oj>

⁽⁴⁾ C(2023) 8926 final, Commission Implementing Decision of 21.12.2023 on the financing of the 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 and the adoption of the work programme for 2024-2027 https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/e6150e32-3fa5-4276-923b-a36faf4fec1e_en?filename=C_2023_8926_F1_COMMISSION_IMPLEMENTING_DECISION_EN_V3_P1_3119489.PDF

⁽⁵⁾ Annex 3 to C(2023) 8926 final https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/c69d5f53-6966-420f-8628-7ff84bf91646_en?filename=C_2023_8926_F1_ANNEX_EN_V2_P1_3132789.PDF

⁽⁶⁾ Article 73 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32021R2115#:~:text=Regulation%20%28EU%29%202021%2F2115%20of%20the%20European%20Parliament%20and,Regulations%20%28EU%29%20No%201305%2F2013%20and%20%28EU%29%20No%201307%2F2013>

⁽⁷⁾ <https://www.agrotikianaptixi.gr/6i-grapti-diadikasia-epitropis-parakolouthisis-ss-kap/>

⁽⁸⁾ <https://www.agrotikianaptixi.gr/category/sskap-2023-2027/sskap-egkrisi-tropopoiiseis/>

⁽⁹⁾ http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2020/687/oj

⁽¹⁰⁾ http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2024/2207/oj

Imports of sheep from Türkiye are not possible as Türkiye is not listed in Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 ⁽¹⁾. Furthermore, SGP is present in Türkiye and outbreaks have been reported for many years now, mostly in the Anatolia region.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021R0404&qid=1732203032147>