

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002438/24
to the Commission
Valérie Deloge (Pfe), Gilles Pennelle (Pfe)
(6 November 2024)**

Subject: Outbreaks of bluetongue and epizootic haemorrhagic disease currently affecting European flocks, and the EU's response

For several months numerous European countries, including France, have been faced with epidemics of bluetongue (BT) and epizootic haemorrhagic disease (EHD), two infectious conditions transmitted by midges that do not affect humans or production, but which are decimating Europe's sheep flocks.

Although it was initially under control, the numerous outbreaks detected this summer could ultimately cause the death of thousands of head of cattle in the European Union. Localised responses (such as targeted vaccination) have been implemented, but the speed at which these diseases spread and the scale of the phenomenon call for a more effective response, without which European production and export capacities will be affected.

Accordingly:

1. To what extent has the Commission been informed of these epidemics?
2. Is it considering introducing, as it did for COVID-19, targeted aid for European livestock farmers, both to help them implement vaccination and prevention campaigns and to alleviate the financial consequences of the ill health of their animals?
3. In addition to financial aid, how does it plan to support European farmers, who are already under considerable pressure?

Submitted: 6.11.2024

**Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission
(3 January 2025)**

Outbreaks of infection with bluetongue virus (BTV) and of infection with epizootic haemorrhagic disease virus (EHD) are notifiable through the EU Animal Disease Information System ⁽¹⁾ making the Commission and competent authorities of other Member States aware of the disease situation in order to take relevant measures to prevent their spread.

The situation is regularly discussed, including in the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed ⁽²⁾. Difficulties caused by those animal diseases for the farming community have also been discussed at the meetings of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council, and at the European Parliament plenary session on 8 October 2024.

All these actions ensure awareness and coordination between the Commission and the Member States.

As replied to questions E-002019/2024, E-001850/2024, E-001845/2024, no EU funding for veterinary measures under the Single Market Programme is envisaged for the period 2024 to 2027.

For possible support to farmers, the Commission refers to replies to questions E-001819/2024 and E-002019/2024.

⁽¹⁾ https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/animal-diseases/animal-disease-information-system-adis_en
⁽²⁾ https://food.ec.europa.eu/horizontal-topics/committees/paff-committees_en