

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002498/24
to the Commission**

**Verena Mertens (PPE), Stefan Köhler (PPE), Norbert Lins (PPE), Christine Schneider (PPE), Marion Walsmann (PPE),
Lena Düpont (PPE)**
(12 November 2024)

Subject: (Re-)Categorisation of sheep wool as a renewable raw material

Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 and Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 classify sheep wool as a Category C material, putting it in the same category as other animal by-products not intended for human consumption, such as animal blood, raw cow's milk, or carcasses. This leads to very high requirements regarding its collection, transport and storage. Furthermore, the omission of sheep wool from the list of agricultural products in Annex 1 to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union makes it impossible to use EU funds for wool products.

1. Does the Commission plan to revise the categorisation of sheep wool during this legislative term?
2. Is the Commission aware of the negative consequences that the placement of sheep wool in Category C has on its potential commercialisation?
3. Is the Commission willing to consider adding sheep wool to the list of agricultural products in Annex 1 to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union during this legislative term, and if not, why not?

Submitted: 12.11.2024

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

The Commission is not planning to revise the categorisation of sheep wool.

Categorisation of animal by-products into different risk categories is a basic risk mitigation measure. Sheep wool may present a risk to public health and to animal health.

Wool is included in Category C by the regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽¹⁾, as other comparable animal by-products, such as feather, animal hair, horns and hoof cuts. Category C is the least risky category possible.

The comprehensive and proportionate EU animal by-product rules ⁽²⁾ duly allow the valorisation and commercialisation of wool after certain necessary risk-mitigating treatments.

In addition, several derogations for more flexibility are provided for by the EU animal by-product rules for the collection, transport, handling, and use of wool, under the discretion of the national competent authorities.

Changing the list of agricultural products in Annex 1 to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union would require an amendment of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union which can only be amended in accordance with the procedures of Article 48 of the Treaty on European Union and cannot be amended by the Commission.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 laying down health rules as regards animal by-products and derived products not intended for human consumption and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 (Animal by-products Regulation) OJ L 300, 14.11.2009, p. 1-33.

⁽²⁾ https://food.ec.europa.eu/food-safety/animal-products_en