

EN

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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(21.3.2025)

EU legislation¹ is in place to effectively deal with outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and to prevent the spread of the disease. In addition, the Commission laid down requirements for a dedicated Union surveillance programme² for avian influenza which must be implemented in all Member States, with a stringent and harmonised surveillance system having as main objectives the early detection of HPAI in poultry and in wild birds. The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) upon mandate of the Commission, compiles and analyses in an annual report³ the surveillance data provided by the Member States.

The Commission carries out audits and controls⁴ aimed at monitoring the implementation and enforcement of EU legislation on food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare, plant health and in certain areas of human health protection.

According to Regulation (EU) 2016/429⁵, operators are responsible for the health of the animals they keep and reducing the risk of the spread of diseases. They must implement suitable biosecurity measures tailored to the species and categories of kept animals and risks involved, including biosecurity measures regarding wild animals.

Under the Common Agricultural Policy, funding is available through the European Innovation Partnership (EIP-AGRI) for cooperation projects⁶ to test innovative farming practices, including initiatives on biosecurity.

¹ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 of 17 December 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and the Council, as regards rules for the prevention and control of certain listed diseases (OJ L 174, 3.6.2020).

² Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689 of 17 December 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards rules for surveillance, eradication programmes, and disease-free status for certain listed and emerging diseases (OJ L 174, 3.6.2020)
ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2020/689/oj.

³ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/9197>

⁴ https://food.ec.europa.eu/horizontal-topics/official-controls-and-enforcement/health-and-food-audits-and-analysis/work-programmes_en

⁵ Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health ('Animal Health Law'), ELI (<http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/429/oj>).

⁶ https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/projects_en