

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000395/25
to the Commission
Daniel Buda (PPE), Dan-Ştefan Motreanu (PPE)
(29 January 2025)**

Subject: Spread of foot-and-mouth disease in the EU

In Germany, the first case of foot-and-mouth disease in four decades has been detected on a farm near Berlin ⁽¹⁾, triggering swift action: the slaughter of infected animals; transport bans; and the suspension of exports. Trading partners such as the UK and South Korea have imposed restrictions, banning the import of cattle, pigs and sheep from Germany ⁽²⁾, which threatens to undermine an agricultural sector with exports worth EUR 5 billion in 2024.

1. What urgent concrete measures will the European Commission adopt to support Member States in preventing the spread of this disease, while ensuring continuity of trade and protecting the European agriculture sector?
2. How does the Commission plan to support farmers affected by the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, both in terms of compensating for financial losses and of preventing similar crises in the future?

Submitted: 29.1.2025

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(24 March 2025)**

The Commission acted as follows: i) closely monitoring the foot and mouth disease (FMD) situation in the EU; ii) developing an EU legal framework ⁽¹⁾ and specific legislation ⁽²⁾ for implementing emergency disease control measures for FMD and other diseases; iii) adopting immediate measures to enable FMD regionalisation ⁽³⁾, protecting the EU internal market; iv) ensuring EU coordination through comitology ⁽⁴⁾; v) managing an EU FMD antigen bank ready to distribute millions of effective vaccine doses if needed; vi) providing support to all Member States, including training ⁽⁵⁾ and dispatching the EU Veterinary Emergency Team ⁽⁶⁾ on-site to assist the competent authorities; vii) regularly informing Member States and trading partners ⁽⁷⁾ about the evolution of the epidemiological situation and viii) maintaining constant dialogue with trading partners to advocate for the recognition of EU regionalisation and to avoid unjustified trade bans.

EU co-financing of emergency veterinary measures is available under the Commission's Single Market Programme. This includes costs related to culling or slaughtering of animals on affected farms, compensating their owners, and cleaning, disinfecting and disinsectisation the affected premises.

Support can be granted under the Common Agricultural Policy ⁽⁸⁾, including risk management, improved on-farm biosecurity and restoration of agricultural potential following outbreaks.

Further exceptional emergency measures ⁽⁹⁾ to support farmers affected by natural disasters, including animal diseases were adopted on 19 December 2024 by the co-legislators.

¹ <https://www.politico.eu/article/germany-farmer-fear-massive-hit-foot-and-mouth-outbreak/>

² <https://www.politico.eu/article/uk-bans-german-livestock-imports-after-foot-and-mouth-outbreak/>

⁽¹⁾ 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') (OJ L 84, 31.3.2016, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/429/oj>).

⁽²⁾ 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, p. 64, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2020/687/oj).

⁽³⁾ The Commission adopted three regionalisation decisions:

— Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2025/87 of 13 January 2025 concerning certain interim emergency measures relating to foot and mouth disease in Germany (OJ L, 2025/87, 14.1.2025, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2025/87/oj);

— Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2025/186 of 24 January 2025 concerning certain emergency measures relating to foot and mouth disease in Germany and repealing Implementing Decision (EU) 2025/87 (OJ L, 2025/186, 28.1.2025, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2025/186/oj); and

— Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2025/323 of 11 February 2025 concerning certain emergency measures relating to foot and mouth disease in Germany and repealing Implementing Decision (EU) 2025/186 (OJ L, 2025/323, 12.2.2025, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2025/323/oj).

⁽⁴⁾ Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed: https://food.ec.europa.eu/horizontal-topics/committees/paff-committees_en

⁽⁵⁾ Better Training for Safer Food (BTSE) resources: <https://better-training-for-safer-food.ec.europa.eu/training/?lang=en>

⁽⁶⁾ https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/animal-diseases/veterinary-emergency-team_en

⁽⁷⁾ https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/a0dcc301-94d4-4eb3-8c64-8cda1d3afc92_en?filename=ad_control-measures_fmd_chron_de-20250110.pdf

⁽⁸⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 December 2021 establishing rules on support for strategic plans to be drawn up by Member States under the common agricultural policy (CAP Strategic Plans) and financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1305/2013 and (EU) No 1307/2013 (OJ L436, 6.12.2021, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/2115/2024-05-25>).

⁽⁹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32024R3242&qid=1735899275178>

Exceptional support ⁽¹⁰⁾ may also be requested by Member States for farmers affected by trade restrictions due to animal diseases.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Article 220 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 922/72, (EEC) No 234/79, (EC) No 1037/2001 and (EC) No 1234/2007 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/1308/2024-11-08>).