

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000857/25
to the Commission
Eric Sargiacomo (S&D)
(26 February 2025)**

Subject: Bovine tuberculosis: is a vaccine in sight?

Bovine tuberculosis continues to affect livestock across Europe, particularly in France.

British authorities have been providing regular updates on the possibility of a vaccine. The vaccine has reportedly entered the large-scale testing phase and it will likely receive marketing authorisation in the near future.

1. Given the potential authorisation of a vaccine in the UK, under what conditions could this vaccine be rolled out in the European Union?
2. Is the Commission communicating with the British authorities in order to prepare for this possibility?
3. To what extent has the European Food Safety Authority been consulted on the issue of bovine tuberculosis?

Submitted: 26.2.2025

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(15 May 2025)**

1. Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/361 ⁽¹⁾ prohibits Member States from allowing the use of vaccines against tuberculosis in bovine animals. This EU rule is based on decades of experience with eradication, on robust scientific advice, and on expert opinions. Currently available vaccines for bovine tuberculosis do not confer full protection and compromise tuberculin skin tests or other immunological tests, for the distinction between vaccinated and infected animals, jeopardising current control and eradication of bovine tuberculosis and the ongoing approved eradication programmes of the Member States.
2. The Commission has not communicated with the British authorities in this regard and has not received information from them on this topic.
3. The Commission is constantly ensuring that the EU rules are based on the latest scientific knowledge and has consulted the European Food Safety Authority several times on the issue of bovine tuberculosis.

⁽¹⁾ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/361 of 28 November 2022 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and the Council as regards rules for the use of certain veterinary medicinal products for the purpose of prevention and control of certain listed diseases.