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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
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The management of animal diseases is a priority for the Commission as it strengthens the EU livestock competitiveness, and the internal market for animals and by-products - contributing to economic growth, jobs, and sustainable agriculture.

The legislative framework regarding *Peste des petits ruminants* (PPR) laid down in Regulation (EU) 2016/429¹ and Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687² is grounded in the latest scientific evidence as confirmed by the European Food Safety Authority and is aligned with World Organisation for Animal Health's international standards. This legislation provides effective, proportionate, risk-based measures for the prevention and control of transmissible animal diseases, including zoonoses. They set rules on disease awareness, preparedness, and response. Control measures are based on epidemiological factors and risk assessment and include targeted culling in outbreak, contact or suspected establishments. The Commission reviews legislation in light of science and international standards.

The EU has been funding animal health research and innovation (R&I) through its successive Framework Programmes for R&I (FP), investing respectively EUR 35 million in vaccine research under Horizon 2020 (previous FP)³ and EUR 20 million so far under Horizon Europe (current FP)⁴. The Horizon Europe partnership on animal health and welfare⁵ in particular supports work on surveillance and monitoring, treatments and vaccines.

The Vision for Agriculture and Food⁶ announces a work stream on livestock to develop policy pathways for a competitive, resilient and sustainable sector. This work stream will explore important dimensions of the long-term future of the livestock sector to which animal health belongs.

¹ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/429/oj>.

² http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2020/687/oj.

³ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-2020_en.

⁴ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-05/factsheet-agriresearch-animal-health_en.pdf

⁵ <https://www.eupahw.eu/>.

⁶ COM/2025/75 final.