

EN
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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
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Under the EU animal health legislation¹, it is up to the authorities of the Member States to decide on the use of vaccines for the prevention or control of certain animal diseases such as highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and for the vaccination strategy most suited to the local epidemiological situation and industry needs.

The residency period of 21 days set out in the EU rules regarding HPAI vaccination² is consistent with the monitoring period for HPAI as laid down in the EU disease prevention and control rules³.

The length of the monitoring period, based on the time between virus introduction and outbreaks confirmation, is assessed by the European Food Safety Authority⁴ as effective for gallinaceous poultry and for Anseriformes, and recommended to be maintained as such into the EU disease control rules. Nonetheless, the Commission is currently discussing with the Member States' experts for animal health and exploring options to adapt the EU rules regarding HPAI vaccination to further facilitate the use of vaccines for the prevention and control of this disease by interested Member States and poultry sectors.

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. 1–208.

² Annex XIII to 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 (OJ L 52, 20.2.2023, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2023/361/oj).

³ Annex II to 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).

⁴ Scientific Opinion on the assessment of the control measures of the category A diseases of Animal Health Law: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, doi: <https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.2903/j.efsa.2021.6372>.