

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002312/25
to the Commission**

Mariateresa Vivaldini (ECR), Carlo Fidanza (ECR), Daniele Polato (ECR), Stefano Cavedagna (ECR), Elena Donazzan (ECR), Giuseppe Milazzo (ECR), Nicola Procaccini (ECR), Alberico Gambino (ECR), Sergio Berlato (ECR), Paolo Inselvini (ECR), Giovanni Crosetto (ECR), Michele Picaro (ECR), Chiara Gemma (ECR), Pietro Fiocchi (ECR)
(10 June 2025)

Subject: Speeding up the review process of restricted zones and providing support to pig farmers affected by ASF

African swine fever (ASF) is a dynamic disease which requires the list of restricted zones to be constantly updated. It is vital that these restrictions be promptly lifted if an area has successfully countered ASF by means of biosecurity measures, intensive surveillance, culls, carcass removals and the fencing and containment of wild boar and if an appropriate period of time has elapsed without any new outbreaks — a good example being the area east of the A1 motorway in Italy, which is currently classed as a type III restricted zone.

Even that would not be enough to protect the pig farmers who have been affected, particularly as regards the serious indirect damages they are sustaining: in addition to not being able to work, breed pigs or export to foreign markets, they are grappling with unsustainable fixed costs, the depreciation and forced removal of their livestock and speculation by slaughterhouses. The survival of many companies and of the entire Italian PDO sector is at stake.

In the light of the above:

1. Will the Commission introduce forms of guarantee and support for the indirect damages suffered by farms located in the restricted zones?
2. Will it ensure the prompt reassessment of the restricted status of zones where pig farms have successfully implemented ASF control measures — examples include the operations carried out in the Lazio Region in January 2025 and the measures that have been in place in Langhirano since 28 April 2025 — thus preventing further losses for the farmers concerned?

Submitted: 10.6.2025

Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(22 July 2025)

1. The EU can provide financial support under the common market Organisation upon evidence that the market is affected by trade restrictions resulting from applying measures for combating the spread of a disease. Support is also provided under Rural development risk management interventions, provided that Member States established such interventions in their programmes.
2. The Commission constantly monitors the African swine fever (ASF) situation in the affected Member States and actively supports them to control and eradicate the disease.

The establishment and the duration of the restricted zones according to EU legislation⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾ ⁽³⁾ are scientifically determined to avoid the further spread of highly dangerous diseases, such as ASF, and at the same time minimise the economic impact on the sector.

The duration of restrictions in those zones for ASF is also in line with World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) international standards⁽⁴⁾ and the Commission ASF guidelines⁽⁵⁾, which foresee a modulation of the duration depending on specific conditions.

The Commission continues to assess the situation in the Member States with a view to adapting regionalisation, including lifting or reverting the restricted zones, based on the information available as regards the epidemiological situation, in accordance with above EU rules.

⁽¹⁾ 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⁾ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594 of 16 March 2023 laying down special disease control measures for African swine fever and repealing Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/605 (OJ L 79, 17.3.2023, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2023/594/oj).

⁽⁴⁾ WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Code <https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/codes-and-manuals/terrestrial-code-online-access/>.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/C/2023/1504/oj>.