

EN

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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(9.9.2025)

Control measures at EU level for sheep pox and goat pox (SGP) are laid in Regulation (EU) 2016/429¹ and Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687². They include the killing of all animals in the affected establishments along with the creation of restricted zones around the outbreaks. Additional measures for Greece are set out in Commission Implementing Decision 2024/2207³. Member States may decide to implement vaccination against SGP as an additional measure in line with Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/361⁴.

Specific EU measures for SGP are fine tuned in each affected Member State to be best adapted to the local epidemiological situation, considering the size of the area affected, the number of outbreaks, the structure of the livestock sector, the results of epidemiological investigations and other relevant information.

The Commission is constantly evaluating the above measures in cooperation with Member States to be risk based, proportionate, and best adapted to each epidemiological event, ensuring compliance with the EU legal framework, while safeguarding both animal health and the internal market.

The Commission has regular contact on SGP with all affected Member States and offers technical support via the EU reference laboratory for SGP and visits of the EU Veterinary Emergency Team (Greece in May 2025).

Certain control measures are eligible for EU co-financing up to 30%, according to Regulation (EC) No 2021/690⁵ and Annex 3 of Commission Implementing Decision C(2023) 8926⁶.

EU financial support for SGP surveillance is also available in high risk areas through two co-financed programmes⁷.

The EU SGP vaccine bank can ship up to 500.000 doses of vaccines free of charge. No request has been received to date from Greece.

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

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

³ http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2024/2207/oj.

⁴ http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2023/361/oj.

⁵ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/690/oj>.

⁶ C(2023) 8926 final, Commission Implementing Decision of 21.12.2023 on the financing of the Programme for the internal market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, the area of plants, animals, food and feed, and European Statistics and the adoption of the work programme for 2024-2027 https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/e6150e32-3fa5-4276-923b-a36faf4fec1e_en?filename=C_2023_8926_F1_COMMISSION_IMPLEMENTING_DECISION_EN_V3_P1_3119489.PDF.

⁷ Through the Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs) programmes (implemented in Greece, Bulgaria) and the T.H.R.A.C.E programme (Trans-boundary High Risk Area Coordinated Epidemio-surveillance programme) in place since 2013 (Greece, Bulgaria, Türkiye).