

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002836/25
to the Commission
Galato Alexandraki (ECR)
(11 July 2025)**

Subject: Impact of sheep and goat pox in Thessaly and the need to support affected producers and feed businesses

The re-emergence of sheep and goat pox in the prefectures of Larissa and Magnesia is having serious consequences for the primary sector, with at least 60 confirmed new cases between 3 and 26 June 2025 and over 800 animals having been culled in each prefecture. The implementation of restrictive measures, such as protection and surveillance zones that prohibit movement, is essential, but is a financial blow to livestock farmers and feed producers, as they cannot sell their produce and have not yet received the necessary aid to cover the increased cost of keeping animals. Furthermore, judging by the results, these measures are not effective.

In view of the above:

1. How can EU financial support measures (CAP, temporary crisis framework, EBA, etc.) be activated in cases of epizootic diseases, in order to cover both direct losses for livestock farmers and indirect losses for feed producers and cooperatives?
2. Given that the measures taken are implemented within the framework of the EU Animal Health Law (Regulation (EU) 2016/429), why, in the Commission's opinion, are they not effective in Greece in terms of limiting the spread and providing timely compensation to those affected, and how can the effective implementation of measures in Member States be ensured?

Submitted: 11.7.2025

**Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission
(2 March 2026)**

The Commission encourages Member States to make full use of the available financial and technical assistance under the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) Strategic Plans whilst respecting applicable state aid rules, to protect the agricultural sector and prevent permanent production losses.

Support can be granted by the national authorities, without a need for prior notification, if it falls within the scope of the Agricultural *de minimis* Regulation⁽¹⁾ or the Agricultural Block Exemption Regulation (ABER)⁽²⁾ and, subject to the notification obligation and provided that it has been declared compatible with the internal market by the Commission before its granting, in accordance with the Agricultural state aid Guidelines⁽³⁾.

The Greek authorities communicated to the Commission under SA.118530 (2025/XA)⁽⁴⁾ a state aid scheme under the ABER based on the Ministerial Decision 59322/26923/5-3-2025 addressing also sheep and goat pox (SGP).

Exceptional EU support⁽⁵⁾ may be granted to co-finance measures taken to support farmers affected by movement restrictions due to veterinary measures.

SGP control measures at EU level are laid down in Regulation (EU) 2016/429⁽⁶⁾ and Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687⁽⁷⁾. Additional measures for SGP in Greece are laid down in Implementing Decision 2024/2207⁽⁸⁾.

EU measures in response to SGP outbreaks include the killing and disposal of all sheep and goats in the affected establishments, the establishment of restricted zones and movement restrictions for animals and products thereof. The size and the duration of the measures can be adapted to the epidemiological event per restricted zone.

⁽¹⁾ Commission Regulation (EU) No 1408/2013 of 18 December 2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to *de minimis* aid in the agriculture sector, as amended (OJ L 352, 24.12.2013, p. 9).

⁽²⁾ Commission regulation (EU) 2022/2472 of 14 December 2022 declaring certain categories of aid in the agricultural and forestry sectors and in rural areas compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (OJ L 327 21.12.2022, p. 1).

⁽³⁾ OJ C 485, 21.12.2022, p. 1.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://competition-cases.ec.europa.eu/cases/SA.118530>.

⁽⁵⁾ Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 922/72, (EEC) No 234/79, (EC) No 1037/2001 and (EC) No 1234/2007 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 671).

⁽⁶⁾ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/429/oj>.

⁽⁷⁾ http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2020/687/oj.

⁽⁸⁾ http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2024/2207/oj.

The effectiveness of the measures depends on their timely and strict enforcement at national and regional level. The responsibility for the implementation of disease control measures lies with the Member State. In addition, vaccination is an option to be considered notably when progress towards eradication is suboptimal.

The Commission remains in close contact with the Greek authorities, monitors the situation and provides technical and financial support, as appropriate, to ensure compliance with EU legislation and the effective application of the measures, including given consideration to vaccination.
