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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
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EU animal health rules¹ lay down the obligation for Member States to draw up from, and keep up to date, contingency plans in the event of outbreaks of the listed diseases in order to ensure preparedness and rapid responses. Those contingency plans need to cover inter alia access to facilities, equipment, personnel and emergency funds, in particular for the necessary stamping out operations.

In addition, according to the EU animal welfare legislation on the protection of animals at the time of killing², facilities used for killing and related operations shall be designed, constructed, maintained and operated to ensure animals are spared any avoidable pain, distress or suffering during their killing and related operations including in case of emergency slaughter and depopulation operations.

The Common Agricultural Policy post-2027 will continue to be anchored in the EU Treaty objectives and will maintain its full set of instruments, ensuring farmers receive fair income, support environmental sustainability and benefit from investments in rural areas. Beyond the EUR 293.7 billion allocated for farmers covering income support measures, additional funding from the national and regional partnership plans can be dedicated to providing other support towards rural areas, including possibly support for setting up of local slaughterhouses.

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

² <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2009/1099/oj>.