

(English version)

Question for written answer E-003056/25
to the Commission
Marie Dauchy (Pfe), Sebastian Tynkkynen (ECR), Valérie Deloge (Pfe)
(23 July 2025)

Subject: Systematic slaughter of healthy cattle to prevent the spread of lumpy skin disease despite absence of direct contagion

Lumpy skin disease (LSD) is a viral cattle disease transmitted exclusively by biting insects, with no direct contagion between animals or risk to human health.

However, Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 enforces that infected herds must be completely depopulated, including animals in the herd that are healthy, thus causing major economic losses for farmers.

This regulatory position, which is imposed on farmers despite being at total odds with the picture on the ground, is unfair and does nothing to support animal welfare.

In the light of the above:

1. Given that LSD can only be passed on through insect bites, why is the Commission imposing these extreme regulatory measures?
2. Why is the requirement not limited simply to the slaughter of sick animals?

Submitted: 23.7.2025

Question for written answer E-003136/25
to the Commission
Marie Dauchy (Pfe), Marie-Luce Brasier-Clain (Pfe), Valérie Deloge (Pfe)
(30 July 2025)

Subject: Lumpy skin disease vaccines — origins and delivery times

Since the first confirmed outbreak of lumpy skin disease (LSD) on French soil on 29 June 2025, a compulsory vaccination campaign has been launched to protect cattle herds. Cattle are being vaccinated using doses that France ordered by means of the EU vaccine bank.

However, farmers had to wait three long weeks before the first doses were finally available on the ground.

During that period, they were stuck between a rock and a hard place: on the one hand, they faced the risk of their herd becoming contaminated and, on the other, they were subject to movement restrictions that completely paralysed their activities.

Many cattle farmers are still struggling now to obtain vaccine doses.

With a view to providing full transparency for farmers, who are highly alarmed about this health crisis:

1. Can the Commission confirm the exact origin, manufacturer and country of production of the batches of LSD vaccines currently being stored in the EU vaccine bank and distributed in France?
2. Can it provide a detailed, day-by-day breakdown of the process that took place between France's notification of the outbreak and the actual delivery of the vaccines to French veterinary services?

Submitted: 30.7.2025

Joint answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(17 October 2025)

Control measures for Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) at EU level are laid down in Regulation (EU) 2016/429 ⁽¹⁾ (Animal Health Law) and Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 ⁽²⁾ grounded in scientific evidence and aligned with standards of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). Additional Commission emergency measures are adopted by the Commission ⁽³⁾.

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

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

⁽³⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2025/1336/oj.

LSD is categorised as a category A disease under Regulation (EU) 2016/429 due to its rapid spread, impact on cattle production and trade.

In the event of an outbreak of LSD, there is a serious risk of the disease spreading not only through clinically affected cattle, but also through sub-clinically infected cattle, including through insect vectors.

Thus, once confirmed, immediate eradication measures are required according to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687, namely killing and disposal of all cattle present in the affected establishments irrespective of clinical signs ('stamping-out') to prevent further virus circulation.

The total stamping-out of affected establishments, coupled with vaccination in and around the affected areas is the most effective way of ensuring the rapid eradication of LSD, protecting animal health and safeguarding the long-term economic interests of farmers by enabling them to promptly resume safe trade.
