

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003155/25
to the Commission
Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)
(31 July 2025)**

Subject: For the immediate 100% compensation of livestock farmers due to the outbreak of sheep and goat pox

The reemergence and rapid spread of sheep pox and goat pox in many areas of Greece (Larissa, Magnesia, Central Greece, Thrace, Central and Eastern Macedonia and now also Trikala, Western Macedonia and Serres) has led to large-scale animal culling and huge losses for struggling farmers.

Culls are carried out on the instructions of the authorities, on the basis of EU and CAP protocols implemented by the Nea Dimokratia Government, without ensuring compensation for livestock farmers' lost income or the necessary means for disinfection, digging ditches, movement control and compliance with biosecurity measures.

In the light of the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. What view does it take of the need to immediately compensate 100% of the losses (livestock, production, costs relating to disinfection, feed, quarantine, etc.) and the need to immediately cover staff shortfalls in veterinary services, by recruiting permanent veterinarians and ancillary specialists, and to strengthen their logistical infrastructure?
2. What consequences may arise from the prospective vaccination against the pox, which the Commission is now recommending following an inspection carried out by a team of experts in Chalkidiki last May?
3. Will it assume responsibility for covering 100% of any income lost by producers, given that feta manufacturers will certainly pass onto them any losses resulting from any barriers to the uptake of feta on foreign markets?

Submitted: 31.7.2025

**Question for written answer E-003214/25
to the Commission
Emmanouil Kefalogiannis (PPE)
(8 August 2025)**

Subject: Immediate support for stock-breeders who suffered losses due to sheep and goat pox

From the very start of the outbreak of sheep and goat pox, the Greek Government took immediate and decisive action, implementing the necessary emergency measures under Regulation (EU) 2016/429 to limit the spread of the disease and protect livestock. Preventive culling, strict movement restrictions, and cleaning and disinfection operations in the affected stock-breeders' installations are being implemented according to plan, safeguarding public health and ensuring the biosafety of farms. These measures are eligible for up to 30% co-financing. However, given the urgency and the scale of the losses to producers, the following questions arise:

In view of the above, the Commission is asked:

1. Does it intend to expedite the co-financing procedures to ensure immediate payment of compensation to those affected, on the basis of expenditures already being incurred for culling of livestock and disinfection of agricultural installations?
2. What action does it intend to take to strengthen epidemiological supervision and biosafety in high-risk areas, especially in view of Greece's adjacency to Türkiye, where the disease has been endemic for years?
3. Is it envisaged that the resources of the Common Agricultural Policy will be put to immediate use through the Strategic Plan 2023-2027, to finance preventive measures, livestock replenishment and support for producers?

Submitted: 8.8.2025

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

Measures to support control and eradication of Sheep pox and goat pox (SGP), may be eligible for EU co-funding, at a maximum rate of 30% ⁽¹⁾, ⁽²⁾, ⁽³⁾.

Under these provisions, eligible costs include compensation for certain direct costs (e.g. mandatory culling of animals) or costs incurred for the implementation of mandatory control measures (e.g. cost of disinfection) but do not include other costs such as permanent staff recruitment.

EU financial support for SGP surveillance is also possible for high risk areas through two co-financed programmes (Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs) and Trans-boundary High Risk Area Coordinated Epidemio-surveillance programme (THRACE)).

The Member State concerned must first pay the afore mentioned expenditure for these measures to the beneficiaries and then submit a claim to the EU.

Once this claim has been received and evaluated by the Commission then the amount of EU co-funding is transferred to the competent authorities.

Vaccination can be used as an additional measure in line with Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/361 ⁽⁴⁾ and the EU SGP vaccine bank may supply doses of vaccine free of charge when requested.

Furthermore, exceptional EU support ⁽⁵⁾ may be granted to cover market losses incurred by farmers located in areas under movement restrictions by veterinary measures.

Specific support can be provided under the Greek Rural Development Programme 2014-2022 ⁽⁶⁾ and the Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan 2023-2027 ⁽⁷⁾ for investments in restoration of agricultural potential following catastrophic events.

In addition, in December 2024, a new measure (M23) was introduced under 2014-2022 Rural Development programmes (possible support to farms suffering a 30% loss of production or potential due to animal diseases) along with a new crisis measure in the simplification package ⁽⁸⁾, offering a possibility for further assistance.

⁽¹⁾ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/690/oj>.

⁽²⁾ 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.

⁽³⁾ Annex 3 to C(2023) 8926 final, Commission Implementing Decision of 21.12.2023: https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/c69d5f53-6966-420f-8628-7ff84bf91646_en?filename=C_2023_8926_F1_ANNEX_EN_V2_P1_3132789.PDF.

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

⁽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, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/1308/2024-11-08>).

⁽⁶⁾ <https://www.agrotikianaptixi.gr/metra-paa-pages/ependytika-epicheirimatika/>.

⁽⁷⁾ <https://www.agrotikianaptixi.gr/category/sskap-2023-2027/sskap-egkrisi-tropopoiiseis/>.

⁽⁸⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025PC0236>.