

EN

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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
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The Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex (MTBC) is a disease regulated by the EU with the aim of eradicating it completely to achieve disease-free status across the EU. To this end, the Commission has established specific rules, notably Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689 which¹, together with Regulation (EU) 2016/429², addresses all aspects necessary for its eradication. To prevent the potential spread of MTBC between Member States, Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688³, along with Regulation (EU) 2016/429, outlines specific conditions that bovines must meet to ensure they are safe for transport to another Member State.

EU regulations are based on the latest scientific advice from the European Food Safety Authority, aligned with international standards⁴, and have been thoroughly discussed with experts from Member States, taking into account decades of experience in tackling MTBC within the EU. This results in a robust, effective, and flexible legal framework and control system that is well-suited for its purpose.

Although Germany has achieved MTBC-free status⁵, there have been a few reoccurrences (38 outbreaks) since 2020⁶. In the event of an outbreak, the competent authority must conduct an epidemiological investigation and assess relevant factors to determine the most appropriate response⁷.

Finally, regarding the potential review of Regulation (EU) 2016/429, the Commission is currently evaluating it. This evaluation may lead to amendments to Regulation (EU) 2016/429 or the development of subsequent EU regulations. As of now, no specific issues related to MTBC have been identified.

¹ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689 of 17 December 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards rules for surveillance, eradication programmes, and disease-free status for certain listed and emerging diseases.

² Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health ('Animal Health Law').

³ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688 of 17 December 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council, as regards animal health requirements for movements within the Union of terrestrial animals and hatching eggs.

⁴ World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH): <https://www.woah.org/en/home/>.

⁵ Part I of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620 of 15 April 2021 laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the approval of the disease-free and non-vaccination status of certain Member States or zones or compartments thereof as regards certain listed diseases and the approval of eradication programmes for those listed diseases.

⁶ As notified by Germany to the Animal Disease Information System (ADIS): https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/animal-diseases/animal-disease-information-system-adis_en.

⁷ See chiefly Article 25-27 of CDR (EU) 2020/689.