

(English version)

Question for written answer E-003498/25
to the Commission
Maria Walsh (PPE)
(10 September 2025)

Subject: Availability of veterinary medicinal products in Northern Ireland

The EU-UK Common Understanding published on 19 May 2025 states that both parties should agree on a common sanitary and phytosanitary agreement (SPS agreement). This agreement is a welcome step and would be beneficial for the agri-food sectors in Great Britain, Northern Ireland and EU Member States.

When it comes to veterinary medicinal products (VMPs), they were not included in the Windsor Framework agreements, unlike pharmaceuticals for human use. Consequently, Northern Ireland remains in the EU single market, which requires compliance with Regulation (EU) 2019/6 on veterinary medicinal products. However, some VMPs currently used in Northern Ireland are registered in Great Britain, do not comply with EU law, and could become unavailable after the Commission Notice C(2022)9653 on the application of the Union's veterinary medicines *acquis* expires on 1 January 2026. Current estimates are that between 10-15% of veterinary medicines in Northern Ireland are at high risk of discontinuation.

Given the importance of VMPs for farmers and pet owners in Northern Ireland, and more broadly for animal and public health, does the Commission seek any solution for veterinary medicines as for human pharmaceuticals, either as part of the proposed UK-EU SPS agreement, or as a stand-alone UK-EU veterinary medicines agreement?

Submitted: 10.9.2025

Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(10 November 2025)

The Commission recognises the importance of continuous supply of veterinary medicinal products (VMPs) to Northern Ireland. In 2022, the Commission extended for the third time its Notice ⁽¹⁾ referred to by the Honourable Member for 3 more years to allow for more adaptation time.

The engagement between the Commission and the United Kingdom (UK) authorities and of the UK with marketing authorisation holders resulted in good progress on the Notice implementation.

The UK recognised in its paper '*Protecting Animal Health: The Government's Approach to Veterinary Medicines in Northern Ireland*' ⁽²⁾, that out of the around 3 000 products currently authorised in Northern Ireland '*there will be very limited disruption, with fewer than 20 products due to face discontinuation that we consider are likely to result in significant adverse impacts if not addressed.*'

No adverse impacts on animal or public health or welfare are expected, as alternative products are authorised in Northern Ireland and/or in EU Member States.

The applicable Union law also provides sufficient tools to address any residual issue. The Commission therefore does not envisage any additional action on VMPs.

The Commission also confirms that VMPs are not part of the envisaged scope of a future sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) agreement, as noted in the Common Understanding agreed at the UK-EU Summit of 19 May 2025 ⁽³⁾.

⁽¹⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv%3AOJ.C_.2022.494.01.0009.01.ENG&toc=OJ%3AC%3A2022%3A494%3ATOC.

⁽²⁾ paragraph 4 of the summary, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/veterinary-medicines-in-northern-ireland>.

⁽³⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_25_1267.