

EN

E-003694/2025

Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(11.11.2025)

1. There is robust Union legal framework provided for by Regulation (EU) 2016/429¹ and subsequent acts addressing bluetongue virus (BTV). BTV is a category C disease; subject to optional eradication. In addition, the Union legal framework includes measures applicable to the movement of animals within the EU². Movements of animals to other Member States must be safe and the animals must either come from free zones or comply with applicable risk mitigation measures (vaccination and others) and certification providing for safe movement. Implementation of the legal framework is the responsibility of the competent authorities of the Member States.

The situation is closely monitored by the Commission, Member States and regularly discussed at several fora, including at the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed³ and with stakeholders.

Also, preventive measures can be supported through Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plans (CSP), including risk management and on-farm investments. CSP can also support economic mitigation efforts through the restoration of agricultural potential on infected farms.

2. The Commission is reviewing the BTV legal framework, considering a new categorisation of BTV, potentially as a category D disease⁴. In that case, BTV would no longer be subject to optional eradication, but other appropriate, more tailored, fine-tuned, risk-mitigating measures would then apply to movements of animals between Member States.

3. As regards financial resources, EU funding for BTV has not been planned for the 2025–2027 period for eradication programmes in accordance with EU rules⁵, nor for emergency measures. Financial resources are allocated to the eradication of other major priority animal diseases.

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

² https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/animal-diseases/surveillance-eradication-programmes-and-disease-free-status/bluetongue_en.

³ https://food.ec.europa.eu/horizontal-topics/committees/paff-committees_en.

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14718-Animal-diseases-new-categorisation-of-infection-with-bluetongue-virus_en.

⁵ Regulation (EU) 2021/690 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing a 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 (Single Market Programme) and the work programmes (adopted as Commission Implementing Decision C(2024) 2098 of 2.8.2024 for 2025–2027).