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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(26.1.2026)

Currently there is no approved sheep and goat pox (SGP) vaccine in the EU. Nonetheless, the Veterinary Medicinal Products Regulation¹ allows Member States' competent authorities to use a vaccine not authorised within the Union. An EU SGP vaccine bank is in place and can ship vaccines free of charge to a requiring Member State (no request received to date).

Control measures at EU level for SGP are laid down in Regulation (EU) 2016/429² and Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687³. These measures include the immediate killing of kept animals of listed species in an affected establishment and the demarcation of restricted zones around the outbreaks. These measures are mandatory, and vaccination, should Greece decide to vaccinate, can only be applied in addition to them, not as an alternative.

In addition, if Greece decides to vaccinate, it must submit a vaccination plan compliant with Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/361⁴. Then, the Commission may adopt a risk-based and proportionate plan establishing the necessary risk-mitigating measures, consistent with the standards of the World Organisation for Animal Health⁵ and the treatments foreseen under Regulation (EU) 2020/687. Furthermore, the Commission continuously monitors and evaluates the implementation of EU rules through audits, ensuring they remain risk-based, proportionate and fully compliant with the EU legal framework, while safeguarding both animal health and the internal market.

¹ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2019/6/oj>.

² <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/429/oj>.

³ http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2020/687/oj.

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

⁵ <https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/codes-and-manuals/>.