

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

The re-categorisation of infection with the bluetongue virus (BTV) would be formally enacted through an amendment to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1882¹. This amendment has already been presented to the Regulatory Committee² for discussion and is set to be submitted to Member States for a formal opinion in the coming months. Consequently, it is deemed necessary to amend Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689³, along with several other delegated and implementing acts, to align all relevant EU regulations with this re-categorisation.

These amendments are being implemented in response to the epidemiological developments of BTV over recent years and are informed by the experiences of Member States and stakeholders in applying the current rules. After more than a year of thorough discussions with these parties, the Commission and Member States have deemed it necessary to reclassify BTV from category C to D as a proportionate risk management measure and policy support for all stakeholders involved.

EU funding for BTV veterinary programmes was discontinued in 2021, and funding is not planned for the 2025–2027 period in accordance with EU regulations⁴. Financial resources are prioritised for the control and eradication of major priority animal diseases, such as African swine fever and highly pathogenic avian influenza.

The Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plans⁵ may support economic mitigation efforts through the restoration of agricultural potential on infected farms or farms suffering from the impact of a preventive destruction of animals.

¹ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1882 of 3 December 2018 on the application of certain disease prevention and control rules to categories of listed diseases and establishing a list of species and groups of species posing a considerable risk for the spread of those listed diseases.

² Agenda: 17-18 September 2025 - Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed - Section Animal Health and Welfare https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/09454667-4053-494e-861c-7382cbe7c130_en?filename=reg-com_ahw_20250917_agenda.pdf.

³ 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.

⁴ 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).

⁵ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32021R2115&qid=1731663638970#anx_I.