

EN

E-004621/2025

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

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/361¹ (hereafter ‘the Regulation’), is in the process of being amended after extensive discussion in the relevant expert group. The Regulation will continue to allow emergency vaccination against foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), either as suppressive vaccination or as protective vaccination, under the conditions defined in the Regulation. The envisaged deletion of the reference to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) Terrestrial Animal Health Code² will not remove the possibility to ‘vaccinate to live’, and it had never been a way to derogate from the requirements of the Regulation or provide for alternative recovery options. Its deletion ensures that the applicable conditions derive directly from EU legislation, which must operate independently of external standards, that in addition have been modified since the Regulation was first adopted.

When emergency protective vaccination is applied for FMD, the Regulation already provides that movement restrictions in the vaccination zone remain in place for at least three months after the killing or slaughter of the last vaccinated animals. The use of vaccination, and the duration and territorial scope of the vaccination zone is decided by individual Member States. The Commission takes into account scientific and technical input from Member States, including from the German authorities. The Commission also follows developments in FMD vaccines, including in new generation products.

¹ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/361 of 28 November 2022 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and the Council as regards rules for the use of certain veterinary medicinal products for the purpose of prevention and control of certain listed diseases. OJ L 52, 20.2.2023, pp. 1–42; ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2023/361/oj.

² <https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/codes-and-manuals/>.