

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004655/25
to the Commission**

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Gerolf Annemans (PFE), Ton Diepeveen (PFE), Tomáš Kubín (PFE), Ondřej Knotek (PFE)**
(21 November 2025)

Subject: Safety concerns over the use of feed additive Bovaer in cattle

The feed additive Bovaer is promoted as a safe tool for reducing methane emissions from cattle. However, reports from Denmark and the United Kingdom suggest possible links to serious health problems, including mortality, in dairy cows. On the 13 November 2025, the Norwegian dairy processor *Norsk melkeråvare* decided to temporarily suspend its trial of Bovaer as a precautionary measure, pending further investigation. This adds to growing uncertainty at a time when European farmers are already under pressure from rising costs, stricter regulations and a continued decline in farm numbers. Before any wider use of Bovaer is encouraged, its safety must be fully guaranteed.

1. Is the Commission aware of the Norwegian suspension of Bovaer trials and the reports of health and mortality issues in dairy cattle, and how does it assess the seriousness of these signals?
2. Will the Commission initiate an independent scientific review of the safety of Bovaer and consider applying the precautionary principle until conclusive results regarding its safety are available?
3. How will the Commission protect farmers from potential economic losses or liability risks if newly approved additives such as Bovaer are later found to be harmful?

Submitted: 21.11.2025

Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(27 January 2026)

The Commission is not aware of concerns related to the use of Bovaer in Norway. However, the situation in Denmark is being monitored by the Commission, in close contact with the Danish authorities and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), in order to collect data to allow for a proper assessment and understanding of the situation.

The current authorisation of Bovaer as a feed additive by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/565 ⁽¹⁾ is based on the EFSA opinion of 19 November 2021 ⁽²⁾.

In accordance with Article 13(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 ⁽³⁾, the Commission is considering sending shortly a new mandate to EFSA in order to re-assess the safety of the additive for the target species on the basis of new data — being and to be — collected.

Should that assessment identify any possible harmful effects of the additive on animal health, the Commission will adopt without delay appropriate measures concerning the authorisation concerned. These measures may lead to the modification, suspension or revocation of the authorisation.

As provided for in Article 20 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 ⁽⁴⁾ and Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003, feed business operators are primarily responsible for the feed they place on the market.

In the present case, the holder of the authorisation of the feed additive Bovaer is responsible in particular for ensuring that the additive still satisfies the conditions provided for in Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003, including the absence of adverse effects on animal health.

⁽¹⁾ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/565 of 7 April 2022 concerning the authorisation of a preparation of 3-nitrooxypropanol as a feed additive for dairy cows and cows for reproduction (holder of the authorisation: DSM Nutritional Products Ltd, represented in the Union by DSM Nutritional Products Sp. z o.o.). OJ L 109, 8.4.2022, p. 3, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2022/565/oj.

⁽²⁾ EFSA Journal 2021;19(11):6905.

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2003 on additives for use in animal nutrition. OJ L 268, 18.10.2003, p. 2, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2003/1831/oj>.

⁽⁴⁾ Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety. OJ L 31, 1.2.2002, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2002/178/oj>.