

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004804/25  
to the Commission  
Mireia Borrás Pabón (Pfe)  
(3 December 2025)**

**Subject:** Suitability of the EU's compulsory eradication model for LSD in comparison to a management and control-based approach

The recent outbreaks of lumpy skin disease (LSD) have had a significant impact on Spanish livestock farms. Although the disease does not pose a threat to human health and its mortality in livestock is low — around 1-5% — its incidence causes serious losses in productivity, restrictions to movement and significant economic damage in rural areas.

Despite this, under EU regulations, LSD is in a category that in practice leads to measures of eradication by slaughter, even in cases in which an approach based on continuous management and control — surveillance, biosecurity, movement of animals where necessary and vaccination — could be more appropriate and less detrimental to farms.

1. Does the Commission plan to increase the availability of vaccines, improve compensation schemes and support mitigation measures to help farms manage the disease without having to resort to mass depopulation?
2. Is the Commission considering drawing up EU guidelines that explicitly recognise the option of continuous management of LSD and provide regulatory certainty for the livestock sector?

Submitted: 3.12.2025

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission  
(31 March 2026)**

The Commission would like to refer the Honourable Member to the answers to Parliamentary Questions P-004688/2025 <sup>(1)</sup>, E-000029/2026 <sup>(2)</sup>, and P-004548/2025/rev.1 <sup>(3)</sup>, which outlines the robust framework for lumpy skin disease (LSD) control established by EU legislation <sup>(4)</sup>, aligned with the World Organisation for Animal Health standards and supported by European Food Safety Authority assessments <sup>(5)</sup>.

As explained therein, EU legislation provides for surveillance and containment measures, including emergency protective vaccination, ensures the effectiveness and proportionality of control measures, and foresees support from the Union vaccine bank as well as financial assistance and compensation.

Those replies also clarify that vaccination is an important complementary tool but does not replace stamping-out once an outbreak is confirmed.

Immediate culling of affected outbreak establishment remains essential to prevent further spread and ensure swift eradication. The current framework provides a solid legal basis and regulatory certainty for the livestock sector for the management and containment of the disease.

The Commission continuously considers the latest scientific information and field experience when updating these rules.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Spread of lumpy skin disease (LSD): [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-004688\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-004688_EN.html).

<sup>(2)</sup> Management of lumpy skin disease: [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2026-000029\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2026-000029_EN.html).

<sup>(3)</sup> Lumpy skin disease outbreak in Catalonia — EU preparedness and vaccine availability: [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/P-10-2025-004548\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/P-10-2025-004548_EN.html).

<sup>(4)</sup> Regulation (EU) 2016/429 ('Animal Health Law'), Commission Delegated Regulations (EU) 2020/687 and (EU) 2023/361.

<sup>(5)</sup> <https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2022.7121>.