

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005076/25
to the Commission
Arash Saeidi (The Left)
(26 December 2025)**

Subject: EU response to lumpy skin disease

Detected for the first time in several Member States in 2025, lumpy skin disease has become a major challenge faced by European farmers. That viral disease, which cannot be transmitted to humans, causes significant production losses, weakens farms and threatens entire sectors. The current strategy — based on the slaughter of entire infected herds — is strongly opposed by the farming community, which calls both for systematic slaughter to be abolished in favour of partial and selective culling accompanied by enhanced health monitoring, and for vaccination to become widespread across the EU.

In view of the above, can the Commission answer the following question:

Can it authorise a coordinated, EU-wide vaccination campaign that includes DIVA vaccines, as well as the possibility of partial and selective culling, so as to reduce intra-EU restrictions and limit economic losses?

Submitted: 26.12.2025

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

The Commission invites the Honourable Member to refer to the answers to P-004478/2025 ⁽¹⁾ and E-000029/2026 ⁽²⁾. As explained therein, under the the Animal Health Law (Regulation (EU) 2016/429 ⁽³⁾), Member States may decide to implement vaccination against Category A diseases, including lumpy skin disease (LSD), irrespective of the availability of a DIVA (Differentiating infected from vaccinated animals through serology) vaccine.

Furthermore, available polymerase chain reaction (PCR) assays developed by the European Union Reference Laboratory enable differentiation between field and vaccine strains, supporting surveillance.

Vaccination is an important complementary tool but does not replace stamping out once infection is confirmed. Detection of LSD in a herd indicates circulation within the epidemiological unit and rapid culling of the affected herd remains the most effective measure to prevent further spread and ensure swift eradication.

These measures are continually evaluated with the support of the European Food Safety Authority and reflect a suitable approach, in particular enabling emergency protective vaccination while maintaining stamping out as an essential response where the disease is confirmed, in line with the international standards of the World Organisation for Animal Health.

⁽¹⁾ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/P-10-2025-004478_EN.html.

⁽²⁾ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2026-000029_EN.html.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 84, 31.3.2016, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/429/oj>.