

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000029/26
to the Commission
Emma Fourreau (The Left)
(7 January 2026)**

Subject: Management of lumpy skin disease

Some Member States currently adopt a stamping-out policy for lumpy skin disease, meaning that an entire herd of cattle is systematically culled as soon as one case is detected, irrespective of the level of vaccine protection.

However, a study by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) shows that, when there is sufficient vaccination coverage, there is no difference between stamping out and partial culling when it comes to controlling lumpy skin disease. That position is shared by the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE), which recommends that vaccination and preventive measures be prioritised.

Stamping out causes serious psychological, economic and social problems for farmers, but does not have any proven health benefits when vaccination is available and implemented effectively.

In view of the above:

1. Does the Commission acknowledge, in light of EFSA's scientific opinions and FVE's position, that stamping out is not justified when action has been taken to vaccinate herds?
2. Does it intend to review EU guidelines and rules, including those concerning disease-free status, in order to promote vaccination and prevention strategies?

Submitted: 7.1.2026

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

The Commission refers the Honourable Member to the answer to Question E-004688/2025 ⁽¹⁾, which outlines the robust framework for lumpy skin disease (LSD) control established by EU legislation, aligned with World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) standards and supported by European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) assessments.

Vaccination is an important complementary tool for disease control but does not replace stamping out once infection is confirmed in an establishment. The detection of LSD in a herd indicates that infection is already circulating within the epidemiological unit. In such circumstances, rapid culling of the entire affected herd remains the most effective measure to prevent further spread and to ensure swift containment and eradication of this highly contagious disease.

The Commission continually evaluates these measures with the support of EFSA. The existing rules promote emergency protective vaccination while maintaining stamping out as an essential response where disease is confirmed. This balanced approach ensures effective disease control and the preservation of disease-free status in non-affected areas according to WOAH international standards.

The Commission's response to P-004688/2025 also outlines the EU financial support available under the Single Market Programme and the measures under the Common Agricultural Policy.

⁽¹⁾ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-004688-ASW_EN.html.