

EN

E-000298/2026

Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(27.4.2026)

Sheep pox and goat pox (SPGP) vaccines are available in the EU vaccine bank, and their safety have been assessed by the European Union Reference Laboratory for Capripox viruses and are documented. To support the Greek authorities, the Commission requested the European Food Safety Authority to provide a scientific report¹ assessing the safest and most effective vaccines for SPGP, as well as appropriate vaccination strategies. The report confirmed that, if properly implemented, vaccination is suitable and effective under conditions such as those currently observed in Greece.

While no SPGP vaccines are currently authorised within the EU according to the Regulation on Veterinary Medicinal Products (VMPs)², competent authorities in Member States may, in specific circumstances, allow the use of vaccines that are not authorised in the EU. According to the VMPs Regulation, vaccines receive marketing authorisations through applications submitted by pharmaceutical companies. Applicants may apply for a marketing authorisation under exceptional circumstances, if the conditions of Article 25 of the VMPs Regulation are met. Assessment timelines vary but are generally shorter under exceptional circumstances than for standard marketing authorisation applications.

The Commission continues to work with Greece to ensure effective enforcement of control measures such as movement restrictions, and it recommends consideration of vaccination as part of an integrated strategy to contain further spread and achieve disease eradication.

¹ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/9928>.

² Regulation (EU) 2019/6 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on veterinary medicinal products and repealing Directive 2001/82/EC (OJ L 4, 7.1.2019, pp. 43–167. ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2019/6/oj>.)