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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(30.3.2026)

The Commission has not issued specific instructions to Greece regarding the control of sheep pox and goat pox (SPGP), including vaccination, as these matters are addressed within the comprehensive EU regulatory framework. This framework includes Regulation (EU) 2016/429¹, Delegated Regulation 2020/687², Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689³, and Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/361⁴, which govern the use of vaccines.

Furthermore, to support the Greek competent authorities, a mission by the European Veterinary Emergency Team⁵ was carried out on-site in May 2025, concluding that vaccination was highly recommended as a powerful additional tool for the control and eradication of SPGP⁶.

As a result, the Commission recommended Greece to consider vaccinating against SPGP and assisted the Greek competent authorities in making an informed decision, as the decision to implement vaccination or not lies with the Member State's competent authority. It also requested that the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) provides a scientific report⁷ on the safest and most effective vaccines against SPGP, as well as suitable strategies under different epidemiological scenarios.

Finally, a Commission audit in March 2025 evaluated the implementation of animal health controls for SPGP in Greece. The audit's findings will offer guidance for targeted recommendations, with the final report to be published on the Commission's website⁸.

¹ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/429/oj>.

² Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 of 17 December 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and the Council, as regards rules for the prevention and control of certain listed disease, OJ L 174, 3.6.2020, p. 64–139, http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2020/687/oj.

³ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689 of 17 December 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards rules for surveillance, eradication programmes, and disease-free status for certain listed and emerging diseases (Text with EEA relevance) OJ L 174, 3.6.2020, p. 211–340 ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2020/689/oj.

⁴ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/361 of 28 November 2022 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and the Council as regards rules for the use of certain veterinary medicinal products for the purpose of prevention and control of certain listed diseases, OJ L 52, 20.2.2023, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2023/361/oj.

⁵ https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/animal-diseases/veterinary-emergency-team_en.

⁶ https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/feb626db-6599-425e-b908-79cf7e3d01ce_en?filename=reg-com_ahw_20250521_pres-09.pdf.

⁷ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/9928>.

⁸ <https://ec.europa.eu/food/audits-analysis/audit-report>.