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E-000744/2026

Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(17.4.2026)

Sheep pox and goat pox control measures at EU level are laid down in Regulation (EU) 2016/429¹ and Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687². Additional EU rules for control measures and movement restrictions relating to sheep pox and goat pox in Greece are laid down in Commission Implementing Decision 2024/2207³.

Under Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2207, movements of live sheep and goats from Greece to other Member States or to destinations outside the Union are prohibited. That Decision also prohibits movements of sheep and goats to restricted zones, except movements for immediate slaughter that are authorised by the competent authority. The Decision does not prohibit movements of animals from other Member States into non-restricted areas of Greece, nor does it restrict movements to any part of Greece for immediate slaughter.

The EU has in place harmonised rules for movements of animals between Member States that are not affected by diseases listed in Regulation (EU) 2016/429 and Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688⁴. Member States may adopt national measures that go beyond the referred Union legislation, under condition that such measures do not hinder the movement between Member States. The Commission has not been informed of any general suspension of imports of live sheep and goats from Member States to Greece.

The Commission continues to closely monitor the situation to ensure that the measures applied remain consistent with Union animal health legislation and allow the safe operation of the EU single market.

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

² http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2020/687/oj.

³ http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2024/2207/oj.

⁴ http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2020/688/oj.