

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000882/26
to the Commission
Jadwiga Wiśniewska (ECR)
(4 March 2026)**

Subject: Economic impact of ASF regionalisation in countries with a fragmented livestock farming structure — the case of Poland

Following outbreaks of African swine fever in Poland, the national veterinary services have designated restricted areas in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/429 ('the Animal Health Law'), Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594 laying down special disease control measures for African swine fever.

However, representatives of the pig production sector point out that the scope of the designated zones is, in many cases, disproportionate to the actual epidemiological risk and has serious economic consequences, including a fall in purchase prices, disruption of supply chains and a real threat of bankruptcy for small and medium-sized farms and processing plants.

They also highlight that while EU rules apply equally in all Member States, they can have disproportionate effects in countries with a more fragmented livestock farming structure, such as Poland.

In light of the above:

1. What urgent and short-term measures can the Commission take to mitigate the adverse economic impact of ASF regionalisation on pig producers in Poland?
2. Is the Commission considering amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594 and Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 in the future in order to make the rules more flexible, enabling Member States to better adapt the scale of the zones to local epidemiological and structural conditions?

Submitted: 4.3.2026

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(11 May 2026)**

1. Several instruments are available at EU and national level. The Single Market Programme (SMP) ⁽¹⁾ co-finances emergency veterinary measures, including compensation for the killing of animals in outbreak farms and, preventive killing in farms at risk. In addition, Article 220 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 ⁽²⁾ may allow support, at Member State's request, for market losses linked to animal movement restrictions ⁽³⁾. Under current state aid rules, Member States can grant aid of up to 100% to cover the costs of prevention, control and eradication of animal diseases and aid to compensate animal diseases' damages. Aid can be granted under the Agricultural Block Exemption Regulation (ABER) ⁽⁴⁾ or Agricultural state aid Guidelines ⁽⁵⁾, and limited support through the Agricultural *de minimis* Regulation ⁽⁶⁾.

The Polish CAP Strategic Plan ⁽⁷⁾ also provides support notably: for biosecurity investments to prevent the spread of African Swine Fever (ASF), on livestock insurance premiums and on co-financing reciprocal funds. Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Plans may also support the restoration of agricultural potential on infected farms ⁽⁸⁾, while the recently approved CAP simplification package ⁽⁹⁾ provides for crisis payments for farmers facing losses resulting from outbreak events.

2. ASF EU rules are risk- and science-based ⁽¹⁰⁾, aligned with international standards ⁽¹¹⁾ and consider experience while remaining adaptable to local circumstances and epidemiological situations within limits that can ensure an effective eradication. Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594 ⁽¹²⁾ provides for safe derogations for the movement of live animals and products from restricted zones, within or outside those zones and beyond the Member State concerned, following the risk-based approach.

⁽¹⁾ Single Market Programme: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/690/oj>.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/1308/2024-11-08>.

⁽³⁾ These measures are by nature limited in time, for the duration strictly necessary to support the market concerned and they require a clear start and end of the episode, and all losses specifically documented before the Commission can design a measure and propose it for the opinion of the Member States.

⁽⁴⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?toc=OJ%3AL%3A2022%3A327%3ATOC&uri=uriserv%3AOJ.L._2022.327.01.0001.01.ENG.

⁽⁵⁾ With prior notification; guidelines for state aid in the agricultural and forestry sectors and in rural areas (OJ C 485, 21.12.2022, p. 1).

⁽⁶⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/1408/oj/eng>.

⁽⁷⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32021R2115&qid=1757948393327>.

⁽⁸⁾ Under Article 73 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/2115/oj>.

⁽⁹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025PC0236>.

⁽¹⁰⁾ <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2020-00197>; <https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2022-00381>.

⁽¹¹⁾ World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) Terrestrial Animal Health code 31st Edition, 2023. Volumes I and II ISBN 978-92-95121-74-4: <https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/codes-and-manuals/terrestrial-code-online-access/>.

⁽¹²⁾ http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2023/594/oj.