EN
E-001047/2026
Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(10.6.2026)

The Commission continuously monitors the animal health situation and recognises the economic impact of animal diseases on the livestock sector. Considering the impact and consequences of disease outbreaks, it supports Member States through financial and technical assistance, including under the Single Market Programme and measures within the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) [1,2] [3].

The implementation of the measures for the control of avian influenza in the affected Member States is evaluated by the audits performed by the Commission. In the recent years, the Commission performed such audits in Italy in 2022[4] and 2024[5]. The conclusions of the audits are that the competent authorities took appropriate technical and supervisory measures to ensure the protection of animal welfare during depopulation of poultry establishments to control disease outbreaks.

In addition to the findings and conclusions of the audits, the measures implemented by the competent authorities of Italy to manage the outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza are regularly discussed in the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (PAFF Committee)[6].

While the Commission recognises that there is room for improvement, Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009[7] provides already sufficient provisions to ensure the protection of animals at the time of killing. As a result, the modernisation of the animal welfare legislation focuses on other areas.

[1] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32021R2115&qid=1757948393327.
[2] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025PC0236.
[3] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A52025PC0560.
[4] https://ec.europa.eu/food/audits-analysis/audit-report/details/4602.
[5] https://ec.europa.eu/food/audits-analysis/audit-report/details/4899.
[6] https://food.ec.europa.eu/horizontal-topics/committees/paff-committees/animal-health-and-welfare_en.
[7] ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2009/1099/oj.