

EN

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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(11.5.2026)

The EU legal framework, in particular Regulation (EU) 2016/429¹ and Commission Delegated Regulations (EU) 2020/687² and 2020/689³, provides for harmonised measures across the Union, based on the principle of rapid eradication through the stamping-out of confirmed outbreaks, combined with movement restrictions and, where appropriate, the use of vaccination⁴.

These measures are designed to be proportionate to the risks posed by the disease and are applied taking into account the epidemiological situation. A recent risk assessment was carried out to ensure the efficacy of those measures for Member States⁵.

While the legal framework is harmonised, its implementation allows for a degree of flexibility in the choice and combination of measures, including the use of emergency vaccination, under the responsibility of the competent authorities of the Member States.

The Commission is in close contact with the Cypriot authorities and supports them in the application of the appropriate control measures, including through technical assistance⁶ and access to the EU foot and mouth disease vaccine bank⁷. The Commission continues to monitor the situation closely in view of the evolving epidemiological situation.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health ('Animal Health Law') (OJ L 84, 31.3.2016, pp. 1, ELI: <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 diseases (OJ L 174, 3.6.2020, pp. 64–, ELI: 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 (OJ L 174, 3.6.2020, pp. 211–340, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2020/689/oj).

⁴ https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/animal-diseases/diseases-and-control-measures/foot-and-mouth-disease_en.

⁵ Scientific Opinion on the assessment of the control measures for category A diseases of Animal Health Law: Foot and Mouth Disease, First published: 08 June 2021, <https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2021.6632>.

⁶ https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/animal-diseases/veterinary-emergency-team_en.

⁷ https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/animal-diseases/diseases-and-control-measures/foot-and-mouth-disease/support-cy_en.