

EN

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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(8.5.2026)

1. The EU's 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 stamping out confirmed outbreaks of Category A diseases such as foot and mouth disease (FMD), combined with movement restrictions and, where appropriate, the use of vaccination⁴.

2. Under Article 12(1) of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687, the competent authority is required to order the culling of all animals of listed species in an affected establishment following the confirmation of FMD. Vaccination does not alter that requirement.

Article 12(4) provides for limited derogations based on a case-by-case risk assessment, giving flexibility for performing the culling either in other locations or postponing the culling based on the context of emergency vaccination, provided that such measures do not compromise disease control. However, culling remains mandatory also in those cases. Indeed, these derogations do not alter the general principle of rapid eradication through stamping-out, which remains essential given the highly contagious nature of the disease.

3. Since the rules and guidelines remain unchanged, the Commission does not foresee issuing further guidelines.

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.