

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001148/26
to the Commission
Veronika Vrecionová (ECR)
(18 March 2026)**

Subject: Availability of veterinary care for livestock in the EU

There are reports of a shortfall in the number of veterinarians specialising in livestock in some Member States. This may have repercussions for animal health and welfare, food safety, veterinary supervision and the operation of agricultural businesses, particularly in rural areas.

Is the Commission considering adopting measures at the EU level that would help address this problem, such as defining the activities that may be delegated to trained personnel under the supervision of a veterinarian within the framework of existing EU legislation on animal health, veterinary medicines and official controls?

Submitted: 18.3.2026

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu on behalf of the European Commission
(29 June 2026)**

Directive 2005/36/EC ⁽¹⁾ on the recognition of professional qualifications facilitates the free movement of veterinary surgeons within the internal market by establishing minimum training requirements and rules for the recognition of qualifications obtained in another Member State.

Member States retain responsibility for organising their education and training systems, defining health and agricultural policy, and providing veterinary services.

Subject to any requirements flowing from EU legislation on animal health, veterinary medicines, and official controls, Member States retain discretion to define the scope of activities reserved to qualified professionals and, if they consider this appropriate, to provide for delegating certain of those activities to trained personnel.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2005/36/oj/eng>.