

EN
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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
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The Commission is closely monitoring the evolution of the different animal product markets, focusing on the potential impact of animal disease outbreaks¹. The production of eggs increased in some Member States, in particular in Germany in 2025 compared to 2024. Egg imports also increased in 2025.

The EU legislative framework for animal health² recognises and enables the use of vaccines to ensure effective prevention and control of category A diseases, including for vaccination against Newcastle disease (ND). In addition, vaccination against ND is required for certain movements within the EU³ and for entry into the EU⁴ from third countries or territories. In some Member States, vaccination against ND is mandatory, but certain are aiming on disease-free status from infection with ND virus without vaccination, as granted in the EU specific legislation⁵.

For decades well-designed and properly implemented vaccination against ND, coupled with appropriate biosecurity practices effectively prevented outbreaks. Therefore, in the current context of budget difficulties, it is essential to prioritise the use of budget available for the support of emergency measures envisaged by the Single Market Programme (SMP)⁶ to other category A diseases where vaccines are not available or not sufficiently effective to prevent the disease. Hence, in 2025 the Commission phased out co-financing emergency measures for ND under the SMP⁷.

¹ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/farming/animal-products/eggs_en.

² 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, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/429/oj>).

³ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council, as regards animal health requirements for movements within the Union of terrestrial animals and hatching eggs (OJ L 174, 3.6.2020, pp. 140, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2020/688/oj).

⁴ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards rules for entry into the Union, and the movement and handling after entry of consignments of certain animals, germinal products and products of animal origin (OJ L 174, 3.6.2020, pp. 379, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2020/692/oj).

⁵ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620 of 15 April 2021 laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the approval of the disease-free and non-vaccination status of certain Member States or zones or compartments thereof as regards certain listed diseases and the approval of eradication programmes for those listed diseases (OJ L 131, 16.4.2021, pp. 78, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2021/620/oj).

⁶ Regulation (EU) 2021/690 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing a programme for the internal market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, the area of plants, animals, food and feed, and European statistics (Single Market Programme) and repealing Regulations (EU) No 99/2013, (EU) No 1287/2013, (EU) No 254/2014 and (EU) No 652/2014 (OJ L 153, 3.5.2021, pp. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/690/oj>).

⁷ Summary report of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed, 16-17 December 2024: https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/a1190b22-fb16-4f97-b105-c0c674fe4ba3_en?filename=reg-com_ahw_20241216_sum.pdf.

Following animal disease outbreaks, Member States may support investments in restoring production potential⁸ and introduce crisis payments for affected farmers⁹. At the request of the concerned Member State, the Commission may adopt exceptional support measures to address trade restrictions.

⁸ Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 December 2021 establishing rules on support for strategic plans to be drawn up by Member States under the common agricultural policy (CAP Strategic Plans) and financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1305/2013 and (EU) No 1307/2013 (OJ L 435, 6.12.2021, pp. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/2115/oj>).

⁹ Regulation (EU) 2025/2649 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 December 2025 amending Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 as regards the conditionality system, types of intervention in the form of direct payment, types of intervention in certain sectors and rural development and annual performance reports and Regulation (EU) 2021/2116 as regards suspensions of payments, annual performance clearance and controls and penalties (OJ L, 2025/2649, 31.12.2025, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2025/2649/oj>).