

The EU legal framework, in particular Regulation (EU) 2016/429¹ and Commission Delegated Regulations (EU) 2020/687² and 2020/689³, establishes harmonised measures across the EU to eradicate Category A diseases, such as foot and mouth disease (FMD). These include immediately setting up protection and surveillance zones, culling infected herds, restricting animal and product movements from affected zones, and, where appropriate, vaccination⁴. Following confirmation of the FMD by Greece and Cyprus, interim restrictions were immediately imposed⁵ under Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687. Afterwards, the measures were reviewed and replaced by new measures⁶ better tailored to the evolving situation.

The EU co-finances emergency veterinary measures via the Single Market Programme⁷, covering costs for culling, compensating farmers, cleaning and disinfecting the affected premises, and vaccination⁸. The Commission stands ready to deploy vaccines from the EU FMD antigen bank upon Greece's request.

Additionally, under the Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plans Regulation⁹, Member States may support investments in biosecurity measures as well as restoring agricultural potential and introduce crisis payments for farmers affected by catastrophic events. The Commission may also adopt exceptional support measures for market losses linked to restrictions imposed to curb disease spread.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2016/429 '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 (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 (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 Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2026/732 (OJ L, 2026/732, 24.3.2026, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2026/732/oj); and Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2026/ (OJ L, 2026/484, 26.2.2026, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2026/484/oj).

⁶ Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2026/582 (OJ L, 2026/582, 13.3.2026, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2026/582/oj); and Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2026/820 (OJ L, 2026/820, 8.4.2026, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2026/820/oj).

⁷ Regulation (EU) 2021/690 'Single Market Programme' (OJ L 153, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/690/oj>).

⁸ https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/c1ed1748-1b55-4e7b-add0-b7eb41c65a3e_en?filename=cff_animal_emergency-measures_ah-ms-guidelines.pdf.

⁹ Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 (OJ L 435, 6.12.2021, pp. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/2115/oj>).