

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001427/26
to the Commission
Afroditi Latinopoulou (Pfe)
(8 April 2026)**

Subject: Rapid spread of sheep pox across Greece and unjustified delays in compensation

There has been a massive surge in cases of sheep pox in Greece, leaving understaffed veterinary services unable to keep up with immediate culling needs, which has led to the further spread of the disease.

Can the Commission answer the following:

1. Since veterinary services have taken a considerable amount of time (in some cases up to 30 days) to cull pox-infected animals, why is there no provision for compensation for sheep that have died of pox in the time between the positive laboratory test result and their mandatory culling?
2. What provisions are in place for holdings dealing with pox virus infections for the period of time that must elapse after infected animals are culled before restocking with new animals is permitted?
3. How long after the date of culling must compensation be paid to the farmer for the animals culled due to pox?

Submitted: 8.4.2026

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(27 May 2026)**

At National level when an outbreak of sheep pox and goat pox is confirmed in an establishment, Member States are responsible for setting compensation rules for the death or killing of ovine and caprine animals, and for costs related to cleaning, disinfection and other control measures to ensure the rapid eradication of the disease.

At EU level, financial support to Member States for those veterinary emergency measures is provided under the Single Market Programme ⁽¹⁾.

Eligible costs include costs incurred by Member States to compensate animals slaughtered or culled, the slaughtering, transport, cleaning, disinfection, and disposal activities.

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 ⁽²⁾ requires that killing of animals in affected establishments is carried out as soon as possible on the spot, to limit disease spread and reduce further losses. Y

EU co-financing to Member States may, under specific conditions and verifications, include the compensation for animals that die for the disease after official suspicion has been notified to the competent authority.

Following killing, establishments must remain under restriction until the cleaning and disinfection supervised by the competent authority.

Restocking can be granted once the cleaning and disinfection have been completed and epidemiological conditions and control measures required by the competent authority are fulfilled.

Restocking of sheep and goat establishments located within the restricted zones listed in Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2207 ⁽³⁾ in Greece is prohibited.

EU legislation does not set a fixed deadline for compensation payments, which is subject to national administrative procedures and verification processes.

⁽¹⁾ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/690/oj>.

⁽²⁾ http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2020/687/oj.

⁽³⁾ http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2024/2207/oj.