

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001674/26
to the Commission
Nikolas Farantouris (NI)
(23 April 2026)**

Subject: Urgent need in Lesvos to address foot-and-mouth disease and its consequences for local producers and the environment

The island of Lesvos is a key pillar of Greek livestock production, with a livestock population exceeding 420 000 sheep and goats and significant production of milk and cheese products ⁽¹⁾. The first case of foot-and-mouth disease was recorded in mid-March 2026. Since then, the island has been facing a serious health crisis with significant impacts on the local economy and agricultural production. The national authorities have opted to impose a lockdown on the movement of livestock products, with the aim of preventing the spread of the disease to the mainland. This, however, has effectively suspended the commercial activity of producers. During the Easter period alone, 70 000 animals were left unsold. Farmers also express serious and growing environmental concerns, as there are no adequate sites or mechanisms for the hygienic disposal of the 250 tonnes of milk produced daily and the 10 000 animals killed, risking contamination of the aquifer and the island environment ⁽²⁾.

In view of the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. In which countries has vaccination against foot-and-mouth disease been implemented and what have been its results?
2. Does the Commission have sufficient stocks of vaccine and does it intend to make them available for the implementation of targeted vaccinations in surveillance zones?
3. Does the Commission intend to activate emergency financial support mechanisms within the framework of the Common Agricultural Policy or other financial instruments to compensate affected producers immediately and prevent an environmental and health crisis?

Submitted: 23.4.2026

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(2 July 2026)**

The EU legal framework, in particular Regulation (EU) 2016/429 ⁽¹⁾, Commission Delegated Regulations (EU) 2020/687 ⁽²⁾, 2020/689 ⁽³⁾ and 2023/361 ⁽⁴⁾ provides for the instruments to control and eradicate category A diseases such as foot and mouth disease (FMD) including vaccination.

In 2025, emergency suppressive vaccination for FMD was successfully applied by Slovakia and Hungary as part of their eradication strategy.

In 2026, Cyprus is implementing emergency protective vaccination. More information can be found in the proceedings of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed ⁽⁵⁾.

The EU FMD vaccine bank remains available to support Member States for launching emergency vaccination upon request by the competent authority, taking into account the epidemiological situation and the vaccination strategy.

At the request of the Member State concerned, the Commission may also adopt exceptional support measures for market losses linked to restrictions imposed to curb disease spread. Greece has not formally requested such support.

¹ <https://www.kathimerini.gr/society/564147838/afthodis-pyretos-fones-apognosis-apo-tin-karantina-tis-lesvoy-k/>.

² https://www.in.gr/2026/04/13/greece/afthodis-pyretos-thysiazoun-ti-lesvo-gia-na-sothei-i-ypoloipi-ellada/#goog_rewarded.

⁽¹⁾ 'Animal Health Law' OJ L 84, 31.3.2016, pp. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/429/oj>.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 174, 3.6.2020, pp. 64–, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2020/687/oj.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 174, 3.6.2020, pp. 211–340, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2020/689/oj.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 52, 20.2.2023, pp. 1–42, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2023/361/oj.

⁽⁵⁾ https://food.ec.europa.eu/horizontal-topics/committees/paff-committees/animal-health-and-welfare_en.