

EN

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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(10.7.2026)

EU legislation on animal health¹ recognises that prevention is better than cure. Vaccination is one of the additional tools that Member States can choose to implement under EU legislation to ensure the most efficient prevention or control of certain major listed animal diseases in accordance with the specific EU rules that have been recently revised², in order to facilitate their use in a more efficient manner.

Regarding research and innovation on livestock vaccines, a number of projects were and are funded under the framework programmes for research and innovation Horizon 2020³ and Horizon Europe⁴ (e.g. VAX4ASF⁵, SAPHIR⁶, REPRODIVAC⁷).

Furthermore, a European Partnership on Animal Health and Welfare⁸, bringing together organisations from 19 EU Member States and 5 countries associated to Horizon Europe, aims to develop new vaccines or improving existing vaccines, including adjuvants and immune-modulators. The Partnership has already led to new projects in this area.

The EU is technically and financially supporting Member States' efforts, notably through the Single Market Programme,⁹ by deploying vaccine banks and co-financing vaccination plans.

Furthermore, the Commission is participating in the discussions of the World Organisation for Animal Health in relation to the promotion of vaccination use, including its recently launched 'Prevent Forum'.¹⁰

¹ 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, p. 1).

² Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2026/1073 of 6 March 2026 amending and correcting Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/361 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and the Council as regards rules for the use of certain veterinary medicinal products for the purpose of prevention and control of certain listed diseases (ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2026/1073/oj).

³ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-2020_en.

⁴ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en.

⁵ <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101136439>.

⁶ <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/633184>.

⁷ <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101060813>.

⁸ <https://www.eupahw.eu/projects/treatments-and-vaccines>.

⁹ 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, (ELI: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/690/oj/eng>).

¹⁰ <https://www.woah.org/en/document/prevent-forum-public-private-collaboration-for-stronger-prevention-through-vaccination/>.