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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto
on behalf of the European Commission
(10.7.2026)

The EU legal framework governing animal health protection in the EU is in line with international standards and includes risk-based rules for imports of animals and products thereof into the EU. Relevant international standards have been incorporated into Council Regulation 866/2004¹ through Commission Decisions, that set out the terms under which goods can cross the line from the areas of the Republic of Cyprus (RoC) in which the RoC Government does not exercise effective control.

Pursuant to Protocol No 10 of the 2003 Act of Accession², the *acquis* is suspended in the mentioned areas. The Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community aims to improve the socio-economic situation of the Turkish Cypriot community and is implemented in line with EU policies. Regarding the foot-and-mouth disease in Cyprus, support provided through the Aid Programme has contributed to improving animal health in the northern part of the island in recent years. The Commission applies conditionalities adapted to the specific circumstances of the island and the size of the financial support available. It promotes a coordinated and effective disease prevention and response, including by supporting the work of the Veterinary Sub-Committee, under the Technical Committee for Health, established by the leaders of the two communities. An effective, all-island approach requires the engagement of both Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities.

The Commission reiterates that a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus issue, in line with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, is the best path towards lasting and sustainable solutions to challenges affecting the entire island.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02004R0866-20150831>.

² https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/treaty/acc_2003/act_1/pro_10/sign/eng.