

EN

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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(22.7.2026)

The EU legal framework, in particular Regulation (EU) 2016/429¹ and Commission Delegated Regulations (EU) 2020/687², 2020/689³ and 2023/361⁴ provide the instruments to control and eradicate category A diseases such as foot and mouth disease (FMD). Within this framework, the Commission adopted emergency regionalisation measures⁵. The Commission has supported Cyprus following its FMD outbreaks via several EUVET deployments⁶ and 1 029 000 vaccine doses from the EU FMD antigen bank⁷. The EU Reference Laboratory for FMD, which operates under the Official Controls Regulation⁸, regularly reviews the testing capacities of national reference laboratories, including Cyprus.

The Commission has already requested the European Food Safety Authority to assess control measures for Category A diseases in the framework of the Animal Health Law⁹, including FMD¹⁰. The current framework allows flexibility for emergency vaccination based on risk assessments and foresees a timeframe for lifting the measures and movement derogations. The Commission continues to monitor emergency vaccination implementation in Cyprus and assess whether additional action is needed.

In the Turkish Cypriot community, the EU Aid Programme¹¹ finances priority animal-health measures. The Commission applies conditionalities adapted to the island-specific circumstances and the financial support available. It promotes a coordinated and effective disease prevention and response, including by supporting the work of the bicomunal Veterinary Sub-Committee under the Technical Committee for Health. Such response requires both communities to engage. The delegated body Bureau Veritas (Decision 2021/586¹²) is bound to deliver reliable and independent information on FMD control activities.

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 OJ L, 2026/582, 13.3.2026, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2026/582/oj.

⁶ EUVET - Veterinary Emergency Team: https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/8ad2ee27-eada-47c0-8e5c-b39dcfab481_en?filename=reg-com_ahw_202604224_pres-08.pdf; https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/8009a811-00c0-4095-9f65-848072e69faa_en?filename=reg-com_ahw_202604224_pres-09.pdf and https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/c259421f-1447-4e54-97cb-d2ed83a68be8_en?filename=reg-com_ahw_20260122_pres-13.pdf.

⁷ https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/animal-diseases/diseases-and-control-measures/foot-and-mouth-disease_en.

⁸ OJ L 95, 7.4.2017, pp. 1–142, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2017/625/oj>.

⁹ [https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/toc/10.1002/\(ISSN\)1831-4732](https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/toc/10.1002/(ISSN)1831-4732). Animal-Health-Law-Assessment-of-the-control-measures-of-the-category-A-diseases-of-terrestrial-animals

¹⁰ <https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.2903/j.efsa.2021.6632>.

¹¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32006R0389>.

¹² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32021D0586>.