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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(21.8.2026)

Prevention, control and eradication measures for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) are laid down in Regulation (EC) No 999/2001¹.

Ensuring the effective implementation of these measures remains a priority for the Commission. To this end, the Commission has monitored the situation in cooperation with the competent authorities of the Member States to ensure that following the confirmation of a BSE case, whether classical or atypical, all measures under that Regulation were implemented to mitigate any health risk.

Detection of an atypical case of BSE does not affect a country's negligible risk status under the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and does not justify restrictions on international trade.

The co-funded European Partnership on Animal Health and Welfare (EUPAHW)² was launched in 2024 with an overall budget of EUR 354 million for 10 years. Under priority 2, it supports research and innovation for animal health and welfare. The EraBSE project³, launched in December 2025 for 36 months, aims to develop tools for surveillance, epidemiological investigation and control of future cases of animal prion diseases.

¹ Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 May 2001 laying down rules for the prevention, control and eradication of certain transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (*OJ L 147, 31.5.2001, pp. 1–40*; ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2001/999/oj>).

² <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101136346>.

³ <https://www.eupahw.eu/projects/procedures-methodologies-and-tools-to-analyse-animal-health-and-welfare/eradication-of-bse-improving-tools-for-detection-and-management-of-genetic-and-environmental-risks>.