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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(23.1.2025)

When a third country rejects ungulates originating from the Union, the ungulates may only re-enter the Union if they meet the animal health requirements laid down in Article 178 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692[1]. According to this provision, the third country rejecting the animals must be a third country listed for entry into the Union of the species of animals which are returning in the relevant Annexes to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404[2]. Due to the animal disease situation which could represent a serious danger for the Union in the event of an epidemic, only eight countries are currently listed in particular in Annex II (for ungulates other than equine animals and ungulates intended for confined establishments) to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 (Canada, Chile, Greenland, Iceland, New Zealand, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States). None of the countries mentioned by the Honourable Member are included in this list.

The measures to be taken for animals re-entering the Union from non-authorised third countries are provided for in Article 66(3) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625[3].

[1] Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692 of 30 January 2020 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards rules for entry into the Union, and the movement and handling after entry of consignments of certain animals, germinal products and products of animal origin (OJ L 174, 3.6.2020, p. 379).
[2] Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 of 24 March 2021 laying down the lists of third countries, territories or zones thereof from which the entry into the Union of animals, germinal products and products of animal origin is permitted in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and the Council.
[3] Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products, amending Regulations (EC) No 999/2001, (EC) No 396/2005, (EC) No 1069/2009, (EC) No 1107/2009, (EU) No 1151/2012, (EU) No 652/2014, (EU) 2016/429 and (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Regulations (EC) No 1/2005 and (EC) No 1099/2009 and Council Directives 98/58/EC, 1999/74/EC, 2007/43/EC, 2008/119/EC and 2008/120/EC, and repealing Regulations (EC) No 854/2004 and (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Directives 89/608/EEC, 89/662/EEC, 90/425/EEC, 91/496/EEC, 96/23/EC, 96/93/EC and 97/78/EC and Council Decision 92/438/EEC (Official Controls Regulation).