

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-002708/25
to the Commission
Diana Iovanovici Șoșoacă (NI)
(2 July 2025)**

Subject: Ban on the export of live animals from Romania to the EU

Peste des petits ruminants (Ovine Rinderpest) is a viral disease that affects ruminants, sheep and goats, but does not affect humans, if and where it is present.

After applying initial restrictions to Romania, the Commission recently announced the extension of the ban on exports of live animals from Romania to the EU, including their transit through EU countries, although there is no evidence to support this.

I should point out that, in November 2024, I warned of a violation of Romanian law, the absence of the disease, and abuses of power by the authorities, and that, following my actions, Romania and the Commission decided not to apply any sanctions. However, the Romanian authorities have slaughtered around 600 000 sheep without any evidence for doing this, which is ruining Romanian farmers.

If this *peste* is present, it has come from Ukraine because there are no checks on goods transiting Romania from Ukraine.

1. What criteria underpin this decision, bearing in mind there is no official information on research into this disease in Romania? Might it not be that the aim is to ruin Romanian farmers?
2. What criteria have been used to determine the size of the restricted area, protection area and monitoring area, in which farmers are prohibited from exporting live animals to other EU countries, even if no relevant research has been conducted into the disease, unlike in the other Member States?

Submitted: 2.7.2025

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(20 August 2025)**

EU rules for *Peste des petits ruminants* (PPR) are laid down in Regulation (EU) 2016/429⁽¹⁾ (Animal Health Law) and Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687⁽²⁾, and are based on scientific evidence and aligned with the international standards of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH).

Following the recurrence of PPR in Romania confirmed on 5 March 2025, and taking into account the available epidemiological data and disease risk factors, the Commission adopted specific emergency measures under the aforementioned legislation to control the spread and prevent further transmission of the disease within and outside Romania.

The establishment of restricted zones, as well as the enforcement of other control measures is based on a thorough risk assessment.

These measures are specifically tailored to each Member State's epidemiological situation and are regularly updated to reflect evolving data.

Factors considered include the geographic extent of the affected area, the number of outbreaks, the structure and density of the animal population, results from epidemiological investigations, recommendations provided by the EU Emergency Veterinary Team (EUVET) or Commission audits, and other relevant data.

Measures taken are proportionate to the risk, ensuring animal health and maintaining trust in EU and international trade, and are decided in cooperation with the competent authorities of the Member State involved and adopted with support of Member States at the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed.

The review of the current PPR measures in Romania will depend on the results of the dedicated systematic disease surveillance that the competent authorities have committed to implementing.

⁽¹⁾ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/429/oj>.

⁽²⁾ http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2020/687/oj.