

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-003129/25
to the Commission
Dimitris Tsiodras (PPE)
(29 July 2025)**

Subject: Commission action to immediately compensate livestock farmers and address the economic impact of sheep pox

Outbreaks of sheep pox are increasing significantly, affecting livestock farmers in many regional units of Greece, such as Aetolia-Acarnania, Larissa, Rhodope, Magnesia, Florina, Phocis and Xanthi.

By way of illustration, 25 out of the 42 new outbreaks were recorded in the two prefectures of Thessaly (representing 60% of all cases), while it is estimated that 35 000 sheep have been killed in the municipality of Kileler alone.

It should be noted that since the first cases appeared, 638 outbreaks have been reported and 148 285 sheep and goats have been killed.

This irreparably affects the income of livestock farmers and producers and the economic viability of entire regions.

In light of the above, can the Commission say:

1. What action will it take and what mechanisms will it activate to provide urgent financial support to the affected livestock farmers in order to cover their lost income?
2. Does it intend to provide compensation for the affected farmers for the dead animals in accordance with the provisions of the Common Agricultural Policy? If so, how much?
3. Is it looking into the reactivation of measure 5.2 with a view to fully replacing animal stocks and strengthening the resilience of the sector?

Submitted: 29.7.2025

**Answer given by Mr Hansen on behalf of the European Commission
(9 September 2025)**

Control measures for sheep pox and goat pox (SGP) are laid down in Regulation (EU) 2016/429 ⁽¹⁾ and Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 ⁽²⁾ and include the killing of all animals in the affected establishments and the establishment of restricted zones around the outbreaks. Vaccination can be used as an additional measure in line with Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/361 ⁽³⁾.

Costs of certain disease control measures are eligible for EU co-financing up to a maximum of 30% of the eligible costs in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 2021/690 ⁽⁴⁾ and Commission Implementing Decision C(2023) 8926 ⁽⁵⁾.

EU financial support for SGP surveillance is also available in high risk areas through two co-financed programmes (TADs and THRACE). The EU SGP vaccine bank can ship up to 500 000 doses of vaccine free of charge (no request received from Greece to date).

Exceptional support ⁽⁶⁾ may be granted, at the request of the Member State concerned, to take account of restrictions on intra-Union and third-country trade, which may result from the application of measures for combating the spread of diseases in animals.

The support would cover market losses incurred by farmers located in an area put under movement restriction by veterinary measures, but not on an infected farm ⁽⁷⁾ (no request received from Greece to date).

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

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

⁽³⁾ http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2023/361/oj.

⁽⁴⁾ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/690/oj>.

⁽⁵⁾ Commission Implementing Decision of 21.12.2023 on the financing of the Programme for the internal market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, the area of plants, animals, food and feed, and European Statistics and the adoption of the work programme for 2024-2027, C(2023) 8926 final, in particular Annex 3: https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/e6150e32-3fa5-4276-923b-a36faf4fec1e_en?filename=C_2023_8926_F1_COMMISSION_IMPLEMENTING_DECISION_EN_V3_P1_3119489.PDF.

⁽⁶⁾ Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 922/72, (EEC) No 234/79, (EC) No 1037/2001 and (EC) No 1234/2007 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/1308/2024-11-08>).

⁽⁷⁾ These measures are by nature limited in time, for the duration strictly necessary to support the market concerned and they require a clear start and end of the episode, and all losses specifically documented before the Commission can design a measure and propose it for the opinion of the Member States.

Support can be provided under the Greek Rural Development Programme 2014-2022 ⁽⁸⁾ and the Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan 2023-2027 ⁽⁹⁾ for investments aiming at the restoration of agricultural potential following catastrophic events.

Measure 23 (M23) provides liquidity support to farms suffering a 30% loss of production or potential, including in the case of animal diseases. It is up to the Managing Authorities to allocate funding to such interventions.

⁽⁸⁾ <https://www.agrotikianaptixi.gr/metra-paa-pages/ependytika-epicheirimatika/>.

⁽⁹⁾ <https://www.agrotikianaptixi.gr/category/sskap-2023-2027/sskap-egkrisi-tropopoiiseis/>.