

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-004478/25
to the Commission
Esther Herranz García (PPE)
(12 November 2025)**

Subject: Action protocols for new outbreaks of lumpy skin disease

On 11 October 2025, France confirmed an outbreak of lumpy skin disease (LSD), which meant that measures restricting animal movements had to be put in place. Those measures ended on 1 November 2025, despite the fact that the disease had crossed over into Spain.

LSD is an exotic Category A disease, which requires compulsory eradication measures when an outbreak is detected. Even though it is not a zoonotic disease, it does not affect the quality or safety of meat, and there is an effective vaccine for it, the vaccine is not authorised outside the vaccination areas (50 km), nor can vaccinated live animals be moved for eight months.

In view of the drastic measures to be taken in the event of new outbreaks and the major economic impact on the livestock farmers concerned, I would ask the Commission:

1. Does it consider it appropriate to resume exports within such a short space of time, despite the fact that new outbreaks would require all the animals to be slaughtered?
2. Since LSD is not zoonotic, does it consider it appropriate to keep it in Category A rather than Category D?
3. Does it envisage authorising widespread vaccination, promoting the development of marker vaccines that differentiate between infected and vaccinated animals with a view to eradicating the disease completely?

Submitted: 12.11.2025

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(10 December 2025)**

1. Control measures for lumpy skin disease (LSD) are in the Animal Health Law (AHL — Regulation (EU) 2016/429 ⁽¹⁾), Delegated Regulations (EU) 2020/687 ⁽²⁾ and (EU) 2023/361 ⁽³⁾, are aligned with the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) standards and based on the latest science assessed by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) ⁽⁴⁾. Safe movement of animals and animal products require full compliance with these rules, including movement restrictions and post-vaccination recovery periods.

2. LSD is not zoonotic and is categorised as a Category A disease under the AHL requiring Union-level intervention due to the seriousness of its impact on animal health, the economy, society, and the environment, according to the criteria laid down in the AHL and supported by evidence from EFSA, EU Reference laboratories (EURL) and WOAH, and is considered appropriate and proportionate to the risk.

3. Under AHL rules, Member States have the possibility to decide whether to implement vaccination against Category A diseases regardless of the authorisation of a 'DIVA' (marker vaccine). Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) assay tests validated by EURL differentiate between field and vaccine virus strains, aiding effective surveillance and control. According to the EU framework on Veterinary Medicinal Products (Regulation (EU) 2019/6 ⁽⁵⁾), vaccines receive marketing authorisations through applications submitted by pharmaceutical companies, with provisions for accelerated assessments.

1 OJ L 84, 31.3.2016, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/429/oj>.

2 Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 of 17 December 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and the Council, as regards rules for the prevention and control of certain listed diseases OJ L 174, 3.6.2020 http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2020/687/oj.

3 Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/361 of 28 November 2022 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and the Council as regards rules for the use of certain veterinary medicinal products for the purpose of prevention and control of certain listed diseases (OJ L 52, 20.2.2023, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2023/361/oj).
<https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2022.7121>.

5 Regulation (EU) 2019/6 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on veterinary medicinal products and repealing Directive 2001/82/EC (OJ L 4, 7.1.2019, pp. 43-167, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2019/6/oj>).