

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-005075/25
to the Commission
Arash Saeidi (The Left)
(26 December 2025)**

Subject: EU anticipation of and rapid response to animal health crises

Over the past two years, the EU has had to face a series of animal health crises (outbreaks of Bluetongue disease and peste des petits ruminants, re-emergence of Lumpy skin disease, etc.), which have put various sectors under strain and led to emergency measures that are particularly difficult for farmers, including systematic slaughtering.

While tools exist (ADIS, emergency framework, support mechanisms), the fact of these crises occurring one after another raises questions about the EU's ability to anticipate, reduce decision-making times, and secure access to veterinary vaccines (production capacities within the EU, industrial deadlines, coordination of purchasing and contracts, conditions of use).

In this context, does the Commission intend to set out a European strategy to strengthen and secure the independence of veterinary vaccine production capacity in the EU, and does it intend to provide itself with the means to implement that strategy?

Submitted: 26.12.2025

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(11 February 2026)**

The existing EU legal framework for veterinary medicines ⁽¹⁾ provides incentives to increase the availability of innovative vaccines.

These range from data protection periods to the use of modern technologies (e.g. the so called 'vaccine platforms') ⁽²⁾ or new approaches (e.g. 'multi-strain' dossiers) ⁽³⁾ to develop and update vaccines in a faster manner.

The legal framework also provides for the authorisation of vaccines in exceptional circumstances related to animal or public health, which allowed the Commission to authorise several vaccines against important animal diseases such as highly pathogenic avian influenza, bluetongue virus serotype 3, or epizootic haemorrhagic disease.

For listed or emerging diseases under the Animal Health Law ⁽⁴⁾, the legal framework also provides Member States with flexibilities to allow the use of available vaccines to meet the existing animal health needs according to the epidemiological situation in their territory.

Furthermore, under the recently adopted Biotech Act ⁽⁵⁾, the Commission proposes to simplify the regulatory requirements for clinical trials and the authorisation of veterinary medicines, which will further accelerate the development of new vaccines.

The EU also funds research on veterinary vaccines under its framework programmes, through collaborative projects and the co-funded European Partnership on animal health and welfare, addressing diverse diseases ⁽⁶⁾.

⁽¹⁾ 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, p. 43, ELI: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2019/6/oj/eng>).

⁽²⁾ These are a stand-alone part of the dossier for a veterinary vaccine, which will remain unchanged regardless of the active substance(s)/gene(s) of interest included in the platform. These can be adapted rapidly for use against emerging diseases.

⁽³⁾ It gives the possibility to maintain only one dossier that can cover a wide range of vaccine strains. Although some specific information will be needed for each strain, other aspects are common since the same information is relevant for vaccines produced using any of the strains.

⁽⁴⁾ Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health (OJ L 84, 31.3.2016, p. 1).

⁽⁵⁾ Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on establishing a framework of measures for strengthening Union's biotechnology and biomanufacturing sectors particularly in the area of health and amending Regulations (EC) No 178/2002, (EC) No 1394/2007, (EU) No 536/2014, (EU) 2019/6, (EU) 2024/795 and (EU) 2024/1938 (European Biotech Act)- 2025/0406 (COD).

⁽⁶⁾ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/overview-vision-agriculture-food/research-innovation/livestock-systems_en.