

EN

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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(1.4.2026)

Immediately after receiving the notification of the foot and mouth disease (FMD) outbreak suspicion by the Cypriot authority, the Commission adopted emergency disease control measures¹ ensuring coordination via the Regulatory Committee. At the request of Cyprus, it also dispatched the EU Veterinary Emergency Team with three separate missions to assist competent authorities with tailor-made recommendations. The EU FMD antigen bank shipped vaccine doses to the island of Cyprus². The EU Reference laboratory for FMD provided on the spot support and confirmed the presence of FMD serotype SAT1. The Commission also regularly informs Member States and trading partners on the epidemiological situation and advocates for recognising EU regionalisation to avoid unjustified trade bans.

The Commissioner for Health and Animal Welfare also visited Cyprus on 13 March to express the Commission's solidarity and support strictly implemented eradication measures by all available tools.

EU co-financing of emergency measures is available under the Single Market Programme, including the costs for culling and/or disposal of animals on affected farms, the cleaning and disinfection, compensation for owners and surveillance activities.

EU financial support can also be granted under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), including for risk management, improved on-farm biosecurity and restoration of production potential following outbreaks. Exceptional support may be requested by Member States for farmers affected by trade restrictions. Finally, the Member States may amend their CAP Plans to introduce crisis payments for farmers severely affected by animal diseases, among others. In its Plan 2023–2027, Cyprus addresses biosecurity measures³.

¹ http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2026/484/oj.

² https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/animal-diseases/diseases-and-control-measures/foot-and-mouth-disease/support-cy_en.

³ Total public allocation of EUR 9.7 million in biosecurity measures that include pig, cattle and sheep & goat holdings.