

EN

P-001086/2026

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Minzatu  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(15.4.2026)

The Commission acknowledges the growing shortage of veterinarians specialising in livestock, which reflects a broader structural issue in healthcare workforce availability. Addressing this issue is crucial for animal health and welfare, public health, food safety and the resilience of healthcare systems.

The EU does not have the competence to regulate national education, but it can support cooperation among Member States to share best practices and encourage new specialisations. Countries like Denmark have already implemented dedicated policies<sup>1</sup>, and the Commission can facilitate knowledge exchange to help others develop similar targeted policies.

While Member States hold the primary responsibility for organising their education systems, the Commission can help ensure that veterinary education stays fit-for-purpose and aligned with the European Higher Education Area principles<sup>2</sup>. It can provide support through initiatives like profarmed.eu, funded under Erasmus+<sup>3</sup>, which enhances professional development.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://dyrlaegen.nu/artikler/den-nye-veterinaeruddannelse-i-jylland-aabner-i-2024/>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://ehea.info/Download/Tirana-Communique.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://profarmed.eu/> .