

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-001750/26
to the Commission
Christine Anderson (ESN)
(29 April 2026)**

Subject: Reports of a possible emerging canine disease affecting cross-border animal movements in the EU

Recent reports circulating among breeders and veterinary networks in several Member States refer to a possible emerging disease affecting dogs, one which is allegedly associated with cross-border transport and participation in international events. While the information currently available appears to be fragmented and is not yet confirmed by competent authorities, the situation raises questions regarding surveillance, coordination and preparedness in the field of animal health within the EU.

In this context:

1. Is the Commission, in particular through the European Food Safety Authority or in coordination with Member States' competent veterinary authorities, aware of any verified cases or signals indicating the emergence of a new or atypical canine disease within the EU or in neighbouring non-EU countries?
2. What mechanisms are currently in place at EU level to ensure the timely detection, reporting and risk assessment of potential cross-border animal health threats affecting companion animals, including those linked to breeding, transport and international exhibitions?
3. Should unverified reports of a potentially serious disease risk emerge, what steps does the Commission envisage to ensure proportionate, evidence-based communication and coordination among Member States, while avoiding unnecessary disruption to lawful activities such as animal movement and trade?

Submitted: 29.4.2026

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(18 June 2026)**

The Commission is not aware of any cases of a new and/or emerging disease affecting dogs with or without link to cross-border transport or participation in international events.

Nor was it informed about such a disease by the Member States' competent veterinary authorities or the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). The Commission also did not receive any such notification from the World Organisation for Animal Health.

The Commission has established a comprehensive set of legislation anchored around Regulation (EU) 2016/429⁽¹⁾ (the 'Animal Health Law') with a strong focus on preventing, controlling, and eradicating diseases — including new and emerging threats — through enhanced surveillance, early detection and reporting, biosecurity, and traceability of kept and wild animals.

This provides a well-developed harmonised and quickly adaptable set of animal health rules and procedures to manage a potential emerging disease, which, depending on the level of risk and the amplitude of potential events, can involve actions from both the Member States' competent veterinary authorities and the Commission, including any necessary scientific support by EFSA.

Should any reports of a potentially serious transmissible disease risk emerge, existing coordination structures, such as regular meetings of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed, would be the natural fora to ensure proportionate, evidence-based communication and coordination among Member States.

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