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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(19.8.2026)

At EU level, Regulation (EU) 2016/429¹ and Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687² regulate sheep pox and goat pox (SGP). Implementing Decision (EU) 2026/1108³ introduced additional temporary emergency measures in Romania, including a restriction on the movement of sheep and goats from its entire territory to other countries, considering that the disease situation is uncertain and deteriorating. Preliminary surveillance results from May and June 2026 identified seropositive establishments outside the currently restricted zones, indicating possible wider circulation of the disease.

In the 9 July 2026 Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed meeting, Romania reported on SGP occurrences in several counties in 2026 as well as unregistered animal movements which jeopardises the application of the measures⁴. The spread of the disease to new counties and the apparent challenges in preventing, controlling and eradicating small ruminants' diseases need to be addressed in line with the measures set out by the EU legislation for this purpose.

The Commission is currently working with Romania on an action plan to control the outbreaks which may include emergency vaccination as complementary to other animal health measures. The Commission provided technical support to the Romanian authorities organising and managing several meetings with the Veterinary Emergency Team (EUVET)⁵ in June and July 2026. The measures will be reviewed when there is a change in the epidemiological situation.

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

² http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2020/687/oj.

³ http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2026/1108/oj.

⁴ https://food.ec.europa.eu/document/download/4201d76a-41a8-4577-a8f7-68ebc3cd76e6_en?filename=reg-com_ahw_20260709_pres-14.pdf.

⁵ https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/animal-diseases/veterinary-emergency-team_en.