

**Question for written answer E-001397/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Nikos Pappas (The Left)

Subject: Plague affecting small ruminants in the Thessaly region

Recently, an infectious viral disease (plague) that attacks sheep and goats has appeared in the Thessaly region. The region has already seen more than 2 000 deaths of lambs and kids. The region's livestock breeders point to the under-staffing of the country's inspection units and veterinary services and refer, in a joint statement, to 'long-standing responsibilities on the part of governments, which have essentially permitted the uncontrolled import of animals across borders'.

In view of this:

1. Have the competent Greek authorities informed the Commission about this issue, its extent and the conditions for importing sheep and goats from non-EU countries into Greece, namely, into the European Union?
2. What action does it plan to take to ensure that this disease affecting small ruminants does not spread within Greece and across the EU?
3. What measures will the Commission take to ensure that small and medium-sized livestock breeders are not burdened with the cost of taking the requisite measures to prevent and manage the disease, and that those affected are compensated as soon as possible?

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