

**Question for written answer E-001215/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Kostas Papadakis (NI)

Subject: Measures to support livestock farmers in the municipalities of Lokroi in Phthiotis and Orchomenos in Boeotia

Livestock farmers in the municipalities of Lokroi in Phthiotis and Orchomenos in Boeotia are still not receiving any meaningful support following the smallpox outbreak which struck last December, spreading through goat and sheep herds and leaving economic devastation in its wake. Veterinary authorities sought to contain the disease by killing all animals from contaminated farms. In addition, the municipalities of Lokroi and Orchomenos have been declared restricted zones and the rest of the herds have been placed under mandatory quarantine.

Almost five months have passed since the first case came to light, yet no measures have been put in place to support and compensate farmers. The meagre compensation offered for animals that were killed has not yet been paid. Furthermore, under Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009, in the event that authorisation is given for the immediate slaughter of animals from the restricted areas, the offal collected from the slaughterhouses is considered an animal by-product and must be destroyed, which, in the context of Greek Easter, reduces demand for the slaughterhouses in question. The situation livestock farmers are facing is dire and there is uncertainty over whether they will be able to harvest a new fodder crop.

In view of this:

What is the Commission's position concerning justifiable calls for: (a) full compensation for the losses incurred by livestock farmers who lost their animals and replacement of lost income by the State; (b) financial support (for fodder, disinfectants, etc.) for livestock farmers who were forced to quarantine their animals and (c) the smooth-running slaughter of healthy animals coming from the restricted areas?

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