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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council

Subject: PPR (Peste des Petits Ruminants) epidemic - a European problem -
adopted measures
– *Information from Greece*

Delegations will find in the Annex a note from Greece on the above mentioned subject which will be dealt with under "Any other business" at the Council meeting ("Agriculture and Fisheries") on 23 September 2024.

PPR (Peste des Petits Ruminants) epidemic - a European problem – adopted measures

Following the PPR outbreaks - recorded in Greece for the first time in July 2024 – Greece has implemented all relevant measures as foreseen in EU Regulation 687/2020, with the aim of better controlling the spread and eradicating the disease. A large-scale mobilization of personnel was initiated, involving veterinarians from the Ministry of Rural Development and Food and the regional units, experts from universities, military personnel and private veterinarians. This collective effort has been crucial in managing the outbreak and effectively implementing the control measures.

In line with the European health and safety commitments, Greece has monitored the situation and adopted additional stricter measures to boost the efforts aiming at the effective eradication of PPR. Two months after the first outbreak (11th of July 2024), the evolution of the disease is satisfactory with a notable decline that would soon allow to lift the measures in place.

The epidemic involved several EU Member States and represents a significant threat bearing substantial economic implications. Greece's swift and effective response demonstrates a strong commitment to managing and eradicating PPR. However, continuous and comprehensive efforts are vital to prevent further spread and ensure the complete containment of the outbreak. Adequate financial resources must be allocated to support both local and central authorities in their disease control efforts and provide compensation not only to farmers who have lost their animals but also to those affected by the strict restrictive measures in place.

In this regard and taking into consideration that:

1. Greece, due to its geographical location bordering non-EU countries where a number of epizootic diseases are endemic, has faced various epidemics and is always ready to address any new crises,
2. Additional stringent measures, to those already foreseen, have been adopted at national level with a great economic impact so as to contain the disease and to minimize its spreading to other MS and third countries

3. The restrictions, still in place, have contributed to an increase of the cost of production,
4. The outstanding character of this epidemic and its effective management

It is essential that the compensation foreseen by European funding is fully ensured, at 100%, and that additional provisions are considered with a view to funding the re-population of the flocks in the affected areas.
