

Updated Outbreak Assessment #7

Peste des Petits Ruminants in Europe

16 June 2025

Disease Report

Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) were detected for the first time in Greece and Romania in July 2024 and has since been detected sporadically in Hungary and Bulgaria. Our [previous outbreak assessment dated 15 April 2025](#), highlighted reports of PPR in Romania, following a period of six months with no reported detections. There have been no further reports in European Union Member States.

However, Albania has reported 2 outbreaks of PPR in June 2025 according to published reports on [World Organisation for Animal Health \(WOAH\)](#). This is the first time that Albania has reported PPR and demonstrates further spread of the disease across Europe. The first outbreak was confirmed on 4 June 2025 in a goat herd in Domen village, near the border of Montenegro.

The second on a farm in Kastriot 82km away, near the border of North Macedonia. The Animal Disease Information System (ADIS) has reported a third outbreak as of the 9 June 2025, though this had not been published on WAHIS at the time of writing. Media reports indicate that this outbreak was in Martanesh, 40km south of Kastriot. According to this same media reports published, a fourth outbreak occurred in Skrapar, in the south near Greece.

Figure 1: Map of PPR outbreaks published by WOA, in Europe between 15 April and 10 June 2025.



Situation Assessment

Albania

Albania reported the first occurrence of PPR in the north-west of the country near the border with Montenegro, in Domen village, in the county of Skodër. The affected farm was a breeding farm with a total of 18 goats. The veterinary service was notified on 3 June 2025, and cases were confirmed on the 4 June 2025.

The 2 affected animals died, while the 16 other goats were culled and disposed of. A second outbreak of PPR was confirmed on 5 June 2025 in north-east Albania, near the border with North Macedonia. This second outbreak was on a farm with 200 goats in Kastriot, in Dibër county, around 82km from the initial outbreak.

All 134 animals on the farm were [culled and disposed of](#). Control measures were implemented on the affected farms, including, stamping out and disinfection, and protection zones (3km) and surveillance zones (10km) implemented with movement controls established around the farms. [Surveillance is ongoing](#) both within and outside the restricted zones.

Additionally, there are [media reports](#) of 2 additional outbreaks of PPR. One in Bulqizë municipality in Dibër county, near to the border with North Macedonia. This report is 40km south from the outbreak in Kastriot. [The other is in the municipality of Skrapar](#), in the South. These outbreaks have not been published by WOAHA at this time.

At this time, it is not clear if there are any associations between the affected farms, or if the affected animals were imported.

EU and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Member States

No further outbreaks of PPR have occurred in any EU or EFTA Member States.

Implications for Great Britain

Transport of infected livestock is the main risk factor for PPR transmission (EFSA 2015). However, experts consider that it is possible that semen, oocytes as well as embryos obtained from PPR virus-infected animals can contain the infectious pathogen (EFSA 2022) albeit with large uncertainty. No livestock or germinal products are permitted to enter Great Britain from the affected areas.

Experts also consider that it is possible that PPR virus can be spread through movement of animal products including:

- fresh meat
- offal
- raw milk
- raw milk products
- untreated hair and wool

- untreated skins and hides

Therefore, it is assumed here that products of animal origin and meat may present a small risk. The treatment of hair, wool, skins and hides mitigates the risk of PPR survival in these products. Special measures are in place for PPR affected EU Member States. Imports of the following have been suspended:

- live sheep and goats
- germplasm
- raw milk and milk products
- untreated wool and hair
- untreated skins and hides

A separate ban also applies to personal imports of raw milk and milk products. In addition to this, an EU wide ban is in place for non-commercial sheep and goat meat, meat products, milk and milk products. These [special measures](#) apply until revoked.

On 4 June PPR was confirmed in Albania. As of 11 June, imports from Albania of untreated wool and hair from ovine and caprine animals, which is the only commodity implicated in PPR transmission that is approved for export from Albania to Great Britain, [was suspended](#). In the time between confirmation and special measure implementation on 10 June, commercial [importers were advised to hold any consignments](#) of these commodities arriving from Albania.

Since our previous outbreak assessment, there has been geographical spread into Albania. Of the PPR affected countries near to Albania (Greece, Romania, Hungary and Bulgaria) only Romania has reported PPR in recent months. The most recent report was in Romania in April 2025. The origin of the outbreaks in Albania is unclear at this time.

In response to the initial outbreaks in the EU, and to safeguard the sheep and goat populations of Great Britain from PPR, Defra announced on 21 August 2024 strict new controls suspending personal imports of certain sheep and goat commodities such as meat, cheese and milk products (Defra 2024).

Specifically, it is no longer permitted to bring sheep and goat meat and meat products, or sheep and goat milk and milk products that have not been produced and packaged to commercial standards from the EU, EFTA states (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland), the Faroe Islands and Greenland. Additionally, commercially produced and packaged sheep and goat milk and milk products are not permitted from Greece or Romania. These measures will remain in place until PPR no longer presents a risk to Great Britain through the import of those products.

The epizootic is ongoing and while imports from Greece and Romania have been stopped, spread could occur to neighbouring EU countries from which packaged sheep and goat meat can still be imported into Great Britain. Albania is not approved for the export of these products to Great Britain.

While the spread of PPR into a previously unaffected European country is notable, there are limited implications for Great Britain from the recent outbreaks in Albania due to the lack of trade and controls already in place. The risk level for entry of PPR to Great Britain is therefore maintained at **'very low'**.

However, the spread of PPR to another country shows that the disease is still spreading, and there could be more outbreaks in previously affected countries, as happened in Romania in April 2025, or incursions to unaffected EU member states. There remains a risk of illegal entry of products of animal origin.

Conclusion

Albania has reported outbreaks of PPR for the first time, and this emphasises once again the capability for PPR to make significant geographical jumps. At this time, the origin of the outbreaks in Albania is unknown.

Transport of live infected animals is the main risk factor for spread of PPR although germinal products and products of animal origin may present a small risk. Although there are no data to suggest any imports of live animals and germinal products to Great Britain, and the import into Great Britain of unpackaged meat products and milk from Romania and Greece is now banned, the emergence of PPR in the Black Sea basin is still a developing situation.

There could still be potential for its spread to other EU Member States. The risk of PPR introduction to Great Britain as a result of these outbreaks in Romania, Greece and Albania is therefore maintained at **'very low.'**

We will continue to monitor the situation, as this is an important exotic disease which will be a concern for Europe in terms of its ability to spread and its impact on livestock and the economy.

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