

Updated Outbreak Assessment #7

Sheep and goat pox in Europe

17 December 2025

Disease report

Since our [last assessment](#), dated 23 June 2025, Bulgaria, Greece and Romania have continued to report outbreaks of sheep and goat pox (SGP) to WOAH (World Organisation for Animal Health). Romania has reported a further 21 outbreaks, while Bulgaria has reported a further 196 outbreaks and Greece has reported an additional 1,388 outbreaks (**Figure 1**). During this same period, Türkiye has also reported 74 more outbreaks to ADIS. [Previous assessments](#) are available online.

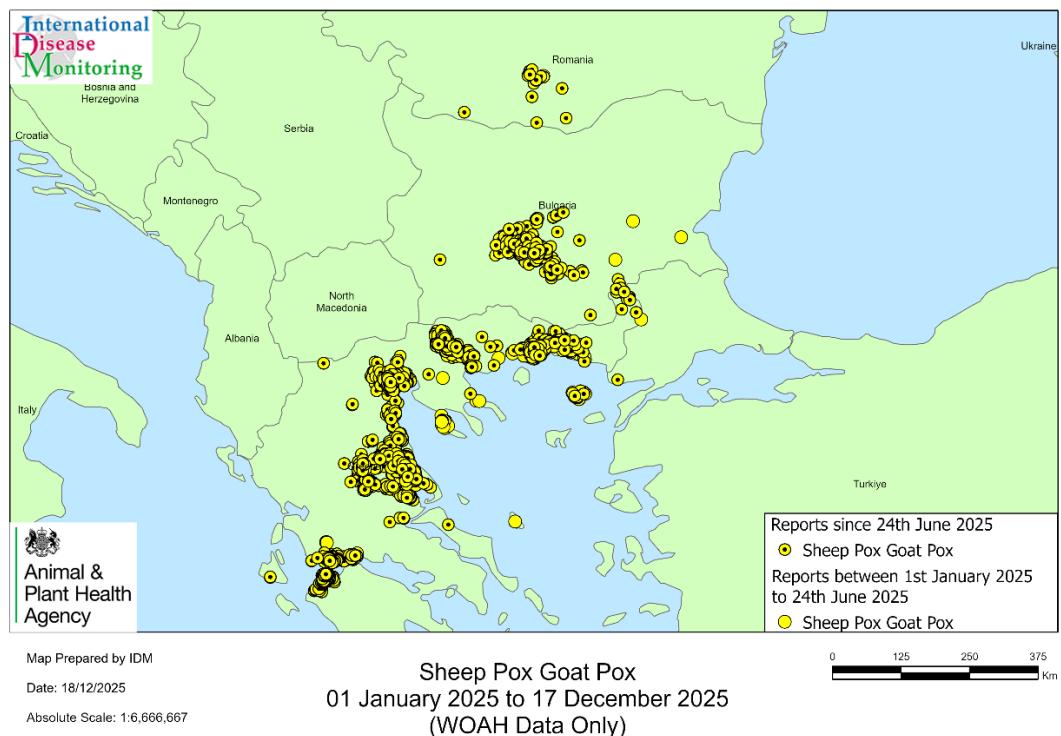


Figure 1: Map showing SGP outbreaks in the EU from 01 January 2025 to 17 December 2025. Points with a black dot inside occurred on or after 24 June 2025

Situation assessment

SGP are highly contagious viral diseases of sheep and goats caused by Capripoxviruses. They are mainly transmitted through close contact, particularly aerosols. However, the viruses can also enter the body via other mucous membranes or abraded skin. During infection, SGP viruses are shed in saliva, ocular and nasal discharge. Animals are most contagious during the first week after the onset of clinical signs ([CFSRH, 2017](#)).

Indirect transmission is possible through contaminated environments and fomites, such as wool and hair, but less frequent than close contact transmission ([Sprygin et al. 2019](#)). SGP viruses are found at high levels in the skin lesions and scabs of infected animals and can remain viable in the environment for months ([Bowden et al. 2008](#), [WOAH, 2013](#)). They can also be transmitted mechanically by biting insects, such as stable flies ([EFSA AHAW Panel, 2014](#)).

Romania

Since our last update on 23 June 2025, Romania has reported a further 21 SGP outbreaks in backyard sheep or mixed sheep and goat premises, with between 20 and 455 susceptible animals. Most outbreaks were reported in July (6 outbreaks) and August (9 outbreaks), with only 3 outbreaks reported in the current month as of the 17th (**Table 1**). The latest outbreaks have been reported in southern Romania in the counties of Teleorman (12 outbreaks), Olt (7 outbreaks) and Dolj (1 outbreak), bordering Bulgaria.

Table 1: Number of confirmed SGP outbreaks in EU member states reported between 24 June 2025 and 17 December 2025 by month (WOAH, 2025)

Country	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Romania	0	6	9	2	0	1	3
Greece	26	115	199	369	321	273	85
Bulgaria	2	104	40	27	19	4	0

Control measures in Romania include culling infected herds and official disposal of carcasses, along with tracing of susceptible commodities and disinfection of infected premises ([PAFF, 2025a](#)). The authorities have also established 3 km protection zones and 10 km surveillance zones around infected premises. Sheep and goats within these zones are subject to the general control measures in Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687, including movement restrictions and clinical and laboratory surveillance ([EC, 2025a](#)).

Epidemiological investigations into the origin of the SGP outbreaks in Romania are ongoing ([PAFF, 2025a](#)).

Bulgaria

Since 23 June 2025, Bulgaria has reported a further 196 SGP outbreaks on sheep or mixed sheep and goat premises, with between 1 and 731 susceptible animals. The number of outbreak reports peaked in July (104 outbreaks) and has decreased since then, with no outbreaks reported in the current month as of the 17th. The latest outbreaks have mainly occurred in the southern and central areas of the country, such as Plodiv (2 outbreaks), Pazardzhik (8 outbreaks), Maritsa (53 outbreaks), Parvomay (17 outbreaks) and Saedinenie (19 outbreaks).

Bulgaria introduced stricter controls under EU Decision 2025/2092. Protection zones were expanded to 5 km, surveillance zones to 10 km, and additional 40 km restricted areas were established. Movement of sheep and goats within and outside the zones is prohibited, except for animals being moved for immediate slaughter within the same zone, following a negative PCR test for SGP ([EC, 2025a](#)).

Bulgaria has also enforced a national ban on small ruminant exports, markets and gatherings. Other measures include culling of infected herds and official disposal of carcasses, mandatory cleaning and disinfection of transport vehicles, clinical and laboratory surveillance of suspect animals within restricted zones, and countrywide movement controls for small ruminants, requiring pre-movement clinical inspection and certification by an official veterinarian. The authorities have also launched awareness campaigns, strengthened biosecurity protocols, and introduced inspections to target illegal live animal movements ([PAFF, 2025b](#)).

Preliminary epidemiological investigations suggest the outbreak may have originated from illegal animal movements, possibly linked to Eid celebrations in June 2025. Subsequent spread is thought to have occurred through shared pastures, watering points and farm activities, such as shearing and milk collection ([PAFF, 2025b](#)).

Greece

Since our last update on 23 June 2025, Greece has reported 1,388 new outbreaks of SGP, affecting sheep farms or mixed sheep and goat holdings with between 1 and 2,941 susceptible animals. During this period, the number of SGP outbreak reports increased rapidly, peaking in September (369 outbreaks) and October (321 outbreaks), before dropping off in November (272 outbreaks) and December (85 outbreaks reported as of the 17th). The latest outbreaks have been concentrated in northern and central regions, such as Xanthi (4 outbreaks), Larissa (27 outbreaks), Agia (51 outbreaks) and Chalkidona (19 outbreaks).

EU Decision 2025/2132 imposed stricter measures in Greece. Protection zones were extended to 5 km, surveillance zones to 20 km, and 40 km restricted areas were added around affected regions. Movement of small ruminants within and outside these zones is prohibited, except under strict conditions, such as PCR testing. A national export ban on small ruminants remains in force ([EC, 2025a](#)).

National authorities have reinforced diagnostic capacity and accelerated outbreak response procedures, such as recruitment, through new legislation, while collaborating with EFSA to develop a future vaccination strategy. Other control

measures applied include culling of infected herds and official disposal of carcasses, tracing, and disinfection. Repopulation in affected areas is still prohibited ([PAFF, 2025c](#)). Vaccination against SGP is currently permitted in the EU for emergency use only, to control the spread of the disease. However, there is no evidence that vaccines have been used to control any of the current SGP outbreaks in EU member states. As of 13 November 2025, SGP vaccines had not been used in the EU in over 30 years ([EC, 2025a](#)).

There are media reports of people trying to illegally import unlicensed SGP vaccines into Greece from Türkiye, with two people arrested at the Greece-Türkiye border in October 2025, carrying 1,200 and 8,000 doses, respectively ([tovima.com, 2025a](#), [Athens Times, 2025](#)). Greek veterinary experts have warned that these vaccines are unsafe, only partially effective and may be contributing towards the spread of the disease. They have also stressed that use of unlicensed vaccines presents a risk to food safety and makes it impossible to distinguish between vaccinated and naturally infected animals, undermining eradication efforts ([tovima.com, 2025b](#)).

The SGP outbreaks in Greece, which have resulted in the culling of over 417,000 sheep and goats, have triggered farmer protests over the lack of government compensation for culled animals (€132 to 220 per animal). Farmers have also criticised the government's response to the outbreaks, such as the lack of quarantine measures in some areas and lack of veterinary personnel ([SonDakika.com, 2025](#)). They are demanding vaccination, full reimbursement, replacement of lost income and free reconstitution of herds to deal with the outbreak ([Newsday, 2025](#)).

Türkiye

Türkiye has reported a further 74 SGP outbreaks to ADIS since our last report on 23 June 2025 (not yet reported to WOAH). The latest outbreak was confirmed on 04 Dec 2025 ([EC, 2025b](#)). Since the first report in May 2025, SGP outbreaks have been reported in 59 different areas of Türkiye, such as Pazarcık, Kadirli, Mazgirt and Saimbeyli. To control the spread of the disease, the government has used a combination of measures, including vaccination, quarantine, movement control, disinfection and tracing ([WOAH, 2025](#)).

Conclusions

Due to outbreaks of SGP and Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) outbreaks, Great Britain has restricted the import of live sheep and goats and their products from Greece, Bulgaria and Romania. This includes sheep and goat germplasm, raw milk and milk products, untreated wool and hair and fresh hides and skins. Great Britain does not trade with Türkiye in any relevant commodities.

Due to the FMD situation in Europe earlier in the year, it became illegal from 12 April 2025 for travellers to bring products of pigs and ruminants, such as sheep and goats, into Great Britain from EU countries for personal use (personal imports) ([Defra and APHA, 2025a](#)). This includes fresh meat, meat products, milk, dairy products,

colostrum, colostrum products and certain composite products and animal by-products, such as untreated wool and hair, with [limited exemptions](#).

The current risk of SGP virus introduction into Great Britain remains **low**. This is based on the Risk of Incursion Tool, informed in part, by Roberts et al. (2011).

We will continue to monitor the situation.

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