

Updated Outbreak Assessment #8

Peste des petits ruminants in Europe

22 December 2025

Disease report

Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) was reported for the first time in Croatia on 13 December 2025. A second outbreak was reported nearby on 20 December 2025. Since our last update on 16 June, there were an additional 11 outbreaks in Albania with the last reported on 9 July. The EU Animal Diseases Information System (ADIS) also recorded reports of individual outbreaks in Kosovo in July and September 2025. While the new outbreaks in Croatia indicate new geographical jump of the disease, the reduction in reports in the latter half of the year means the risk of incursion to Great Britain remains at **very low (very rare but cannot be excluded)**.

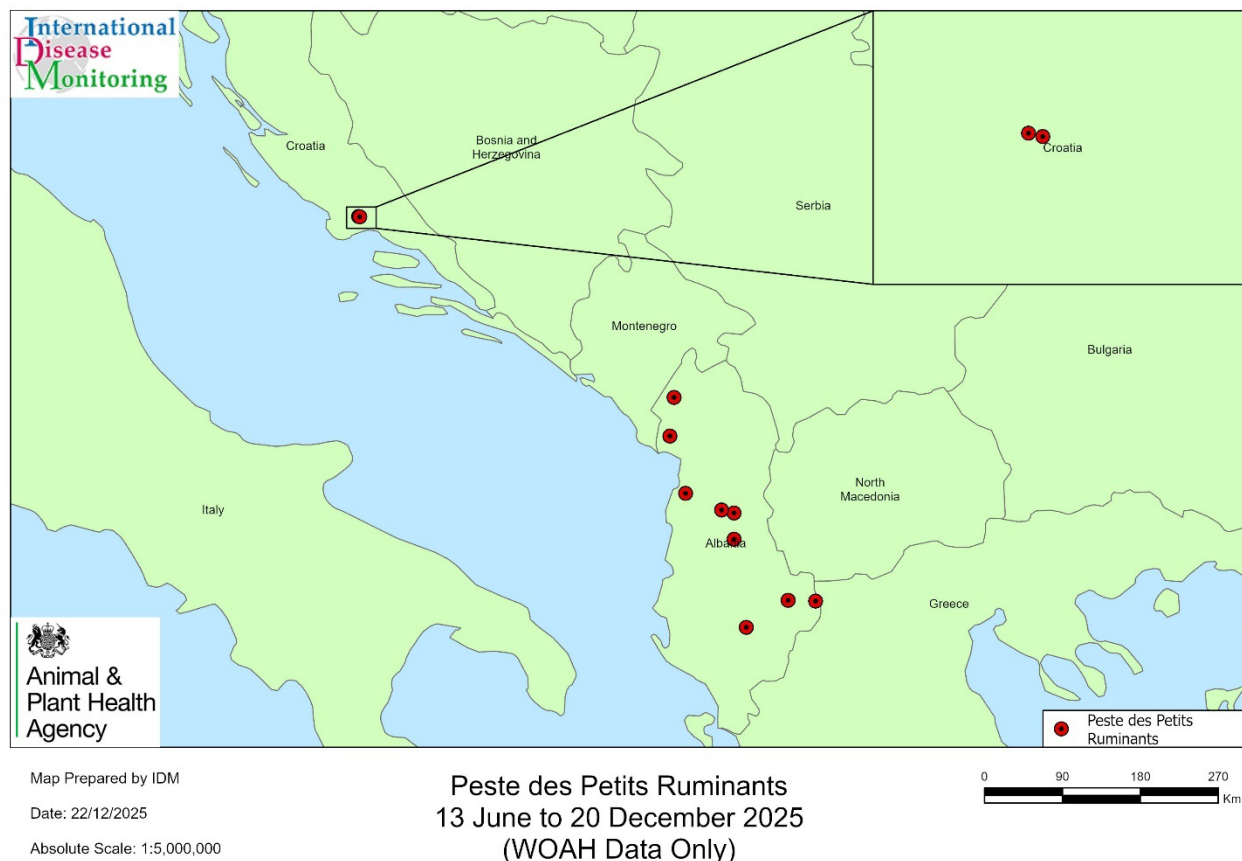


Figure 1: Map of PPR outbreaks reported to WOA in Europe between 13 June and 20 December 2025.

Situation Assessment

Croatia

On 13 December 2025, Croatia reported its first outbreak of PPR in a flock of 26 sheep. Diagnostic testing was performed due to abortions. The outbreak occurred near the coast in the south of the country, but it is within 50 km away from the border of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Following the positive confirmation, all animals on the farm were culled and cleansing and disinfection conducted ([WAHIS event 7118](#)). Media reports suggest the introduction of the disease was from illegal imports, possibly an unregistered imported ram that was to be used for breeding on the farm ([24sata.hr](#), [vecernji.hr](#)). According to a press report on 13 December, epidemiological information was still being collected protection and surveillance zones were soon to be implemented ([24sata.hr](#)).

On 20 December 2025, a second outbreak of PPR was reported from Croatia in a flock of 41 sheep. The outbreak was located about 1 km from the first reported outbreak. With the confirmation of the second outbreak, surveillance has begun both within and outside the restricted zone.

Albania

Since our last update on 16 June 2025, Albania reported 11 additional outbreaks in the country. Ten of these were reported between the 13 and 27 June 2025 and the final one was reported on 9 July 2025. This brings the total number of outbreaks reported in the country to 13. At the [June PAFF presentations](#), the EUVET concluded that at least the first 5 outbreaks were primary outbreaks, suggesting that infected animals were introduced into the country around the same time. It was not known whether this was through legal or illegal imports and tracing backwards was difficult.

Romania

Romania has not reported an outbreak of PPR since March ([November PAFF presentations](#)). [At the October meeting, the EU reference lab for PPR presented sequencing results from EU outbreaks](#). They determined that there was a 97% to 99% probability that Romania was the first country in Europe infected. Similarity in available sequences confirmed a common origin for the PPR outbreaks in Europe. However, there was not enough sequence information available from outbreaks in other regions to identify a potential source of incursion.

Kosovo

According to ADIS summaries, Kosovo reported an outbreak of PPR in July 2025 and again in September of 2025. No additional information is available through ADIS.

Turkey

According to ADIS summaries, Turkey reported an outbreak of PPR in August 2025 and another in September of 2025. No additional information is available through ADIS.

Implications for Great Britain

Transport of infected livestock is the main risk factor for PPR transmission (EFSA 2015) although 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. There has been no trade in susceptible live animals with Croatia in 2024 or 2025.

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, and untreated skins and hides (EFSA 2022). Thus, 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. To date, two consignments of cheese have been identified within the tracing period (1 November to 13 December 2025), although they were smoked and matured for over 6 months. Further tracing is ongoing.

Trade restrictions with Croatia for import of live sheep and goats, germplasm, raw milk and raw milk products (including colostrum), have been implemented through updates to Great Britain's approved country lists. Similarly, restrictions on untreated wool and hair, and fresh and chilled untreated skins and hides have been introduced ([Imports, exports and EU trade of animals and animal products: topical issues - GOV.UK](#)).

In addition to this, an [EU wide ban is in place for personal imports](#) of fresh meat, meat products, milk, dairy products, colostrum, colostrum products and certain composite products and animal by-products of ruminant and porcine origin. This is in response to multiple disease outbreaks across the EU. These special measures applied from 18 December 2025 until revoked or amended and replace earlier safeguard declarations.

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 Croatia due to the lack of trade and the 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, or incursions to unaffected EU member states. There remains a risk of illegal entry of products of animal origin.

Conclusion

Croatia has reported an outbreak 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 Croatia is unknown, although illegal animal movements are suspected.

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 is no data to suggest any imports of live animals and germinal products to Great Britain, and reports have decreased in some countries, the emergence of PPR in the Black Sea basin is still a developing situation and there could yet be spread to other EU Member States. The risk of PPR introduction to Great Britain as a result of these new outbreaks in Croatia is therefore maintained at **very low (very rare but cannot be excluded)**.

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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