

Preliminary Outbreak Assessment #1

Peste des Petits Ruminants in Romania

9 June 2026

Disease Report

Peste des Petis Ruminants (PPR) was detected in Romania in a sheep flock on 5 June 2026 for the first time in more than a year. The outbreak has occurred more than 150km from the most recent outbreak in Romania on 3 March 2025, and more than 500km from outbreaks in other European countries in 2026, according to data from the World Organisation for Animal Health ([WOAH](#)). The outbreak occurred in a province of Romania that was [not undergoing active surveillance for PPR](#).

Two further outbreaks have been reported in Albania since our [previous assessment](#) of PPR in Europe on 15 April 2025. Both outbreaks occurred in small farms with fewer than 100 susceptible animals. No other outbreaks have occurred in Europe since our [updated outbreak assessment](#) on 14 April 2026.

The risk of disease incursion to Great Britain remains at **Very Low (very rare but cannot be excluded)**.

PPR is a viral disease with [high morbidity and mortality](#), mainly affecting small ruminants. [Symptoms of PPR](#) include sudden onset of depression, fever, discharges from the eyes and nose, sores in the mouth, difficulty breathing, cough, foul-smelling diarrhoea and death. PPR has several differential diagnoses including the eradicated disease rinderpest, FMD (foot and mouth disease), bluetongue, CCPP (Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia) and Orf. Younger ruminants, especially sheep, often show more severe symptoms than older individuals, who may only exhibit symptoms when co-infected with other pathogens. This suggests that not all affected individuals may exhibit clinical signs of the disease. Furthermore, it indicates an underlying possibility of subclinical spread ([EURL](#), [see previous assessment](#)).



Figure 1. Map of PPR outbreaks reported to WOA in Romania in 2026.

Situation Assessment

Romania

On 8 June 2026 Romania reported an outbreak of PPR to [WAHIS](#) in Viișoara, Mureș County, the first such occurrence in this county. This represents the first reported outbreak in the country since an outbreak in Bihor County in western Romania on 3 March 2025. The outbreak was reported to have started on 3 June 2026 and was confirmed to be PPR by RT-PCR testing on 5 June 2026.

The outbreak comprised 882 cases in a flock of 882 susceptible sheep, of which there were 36 deaths. This contrasts other outbreaks that have occurred in Europe in 2026, in Croatia and Albania, in which the outbreaks affected mixed herds and flocks of goats and sheep ([see previous assessment – PPR in Europe 14 April 2026](#)).

According to [WAHIS](#), control measures have been applied, including disinfection, movement control, official disposal of carcasses, by-products and waste, surveillance outside of the restricted zones, tracing, and zoning. Additionally, WAHIS reports that stamping out is occurring, with the process of culling in place.

The current outbreak is occurring in central Romania, more than 150km from the Romanian border in all directions. However, this current outbreak is substantially separated from other

outbreaks both temporally and spatially. It is the first outbreak to occur in central Romania, with all other instances of PPR in Romania happening in the far west or south-east of the country. This outbreak is more than 220km away from the closest previous outbreak in Romania, approximately 15 months ago, and is more than 500km away from the closest other outbreaks known to have occurred in 2026, in Croatia and Albania ([WAHIS](#)). This suggests a strong possibility of extensive undetected spread of PPR.

[According](#) to the European Veterinary Reference Laboratory (EURL), cases of subclinical transmission have been reported in some outbreaks of PPR. Sheep may not exhibit clinical signs of the disease, and there can be difficulties in confirming field suspicions due to the similarity of symptoms with other diseases, particularly secondary bacterial infections.

Though active surveillance for PPR is being carried out in Romania, according to the most recent [PAFF presentation](#) available on 15 December 2025, this surveillance is limited to certain counties corresponding broadly with those in which outbreaks have previously occurred, and did not include Mures county.

In December 2025, the [European Commission extended a trade ban](#) that they had previously put in place, from 31 December 2025, to 30 June 2026. This ban applied to caprine and ovine animals from Romania to other Member states of the European Union. The Commission described that “Available data on disease surveillance for the entire territory of Romania remains insufficient to evaluate the epidemiological situation regarding infection with peste des petits ruminants in that Member State”, and thus the ban was extended due to the reported uncertainty regarding the current epidemiological situation.

EU and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Member States

Two further outbreaks have occurred in Albania since 15 April 2026, according to WOA, and corroborated by the Animal Disease Information System (ADIS). The first outbreak is reported to have begun on 20 May 2026 in a flock of 97 susceptible sheep, in which there were 8 cases and just one death. There were 13 cases and 8 deaths. The second is reported to have begun on 21 May 2026 in a herd sheep in Shkodër, in the northwest of Albania, in a flock of 32 sheep. In both instances, all sheep on the premises were culled and disposed of, according to WOA. These outbreaks have occurred in the vicinity of outbreaks in Albania that have occurred throughout the last year, as PPR has been widespread throughout the country (see previous assessment).

There have been no further outbreaks of PPR reported in any other EU or EFTA Member States since our outbreak assessment – [Peste des Petits Ruminants in Europe on 15 April 2026](#).

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. 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.

Import of sheep and goat commodities have been restricted from Romania since 19 July 2024 due to PPR. The import of live animals, germplasm, raw milk and raw milk products, untreated wool and hair, and fresh or chilled untreated skins and hides have all been suspended since this time. Special measures introduced for Greece, Croatia, Albania and Bulgaria in 2024 and 2025 on the trade of animals and animal products still remain in effect. (Continuing the United Kingdom's trade relationship with Albania (web version) - GOV.UK 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 occurrence of PPR in Romania is notable as the outbreak has occurred a considerable distance and time from any other outbreaks, there are limited implications for Great Britain 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**. Previously affected countries other than Romania have not reported any further outbreaks in recent months in the case of Albania and Croatia, and since last year in the case of Greece and Bulgaria. However, PPR is still spreading in Europe, with the recent outbreak reported here suggesting possible undetected, subclinical spread, and there could be more outbreaks in previously affected countries, or incursions to unaffected EU member states. There still remains a risk of illegal entry of products of animal origin.

Conclusion

An outbreak of PPR has occurred in central Romania, the first occurrence in Mures County, separated geographically from recent outbreaks by hundreds of kilometres, and in time from more local outbreaks by at least one year. Moreover, the outbreak has still occurred over 150km from the closest other known outbreak. The origin of the current outbreak is not known, but it suggests that PPR could continue to circulate in Romania, with uncertainties regarding undetected or subclinical spread. The possibility of subclinical spread is consistent with our understanding of PPR.

Many other countries have shown significant improvement in their PPR disease status, with several having no reported outbreaks in over a year, and no new outbreaks outside of Romania since April 2026. Restrictions to trade of animals and related products from Hungary to Great Britain, implemented in early 2025, were revoked earlier in 2026. These

updates in disease status and lack of new reports therefore imply a relative improvement in disease activity for these particular regions.

Transport of live infected animals remains the main risk factor for spread of PPR although germinal products and products of animal origin may present a small risk. Increased travel, informal trade routes, and illegal animal movements during upcoming and elapsed festivals in the Balkans, may also exacerbate the transmission risk in the area. Although there is no data to suggest any imports of live animals and germinal products to Great Britain from these affected areas, 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 this new outbreak in Romania is therefore maintained at **Very low (very rare but cannot be excluded)**.

We will continue to closely 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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