

COMMISSION DECISION

of 6 April 2006

amending Decision 2005/393/EC as regards the restricted zones in relation to bluetongue in Spain

(notified under document number C(2006) 1262)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2006/273/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Directive 2000/75/EC of 20 November 2000 laying down specific provisions for the control and eradication of bluetongue ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 8(3)(c) and the third paragraph of Article 19 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Directive 2000/75/EC lays down control rules and measures to combat bluetongue in the Community, including the establishment of protection and surveillance zones and a ban on animals leaving those zones.
- (2) Commission Decision 2005/393/EC of 23 May 2005 on protection and surveillance zones in relation to bluetongue and conditions applying to movements from or through these zones ⁽²⁾ provides for the demarcation of the global geographic areas where protection and surveillance zones (the restricted zones) are to be established by the Member States in relation to bluetongue.
- (3) Spain has informed the Commission that no virus has circulated in the Balearic Islands for more than two years.
- (4) Consequently, that geographic area should be considered free of bluetongue and, on the basis of the substantiated request submitted by Spain, deleted from the areas listed for restricted zones.
- (5) Decision 2005/393/EC should therefore be amended accordingly.

- (6) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

In Annex I to Decision 2005/393/EC, in the part for Zone C,

‘Spain

Islas Baleares (where serotype 16 is absent),

is deleted.

Article 2

This Decision shall apply from the day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Article 3

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 6 April 2006.

For the Commission

Markos KYPRIANOU

Member of the Commission

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 327, 22.12.2000, p. 74.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 130, 24.5.2005, p. 22. Decision as last amended by Decision 2006/828/EC (OJ L 311, 26.11.2005, p. 37).