



2024/3232

23.12.2024

**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION (EU) 2024/3232**

**of 19 December 2024**

**amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2918 concerning certain emergency measures relating to sheep pox and goat pox in Bulgaria**

*(notified under document C(2024) 9300)*

**(Only the Bulgarian text is authentic)**

**(Text with EEA relevance)**

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health ('Animal Health Law') <sup>(1)</sup>, and in particular Article 259(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Sheep pox and goat pox is an infectious viral disease affecting caprine and ovine animals and can have a severe impact on the concerned animal population and the profitability of farming causing disturbance to movements of consignments of those animals and products thereof within the Union and exports to third countries.
- (2) In the event of an outbreak of sheep pox and goat pox in caprine or ovine animals, there is a serious risk of the spread of that disease to other establishments of caprine or ovine animals.
- (3) Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 <sup>(2)</sup> supplements the rules for the control of the listed diseases referred to in Article 9(1), points (a), (b) and (c), of Regulation (EU) 2016/429, and defined as category A, B and C diseases in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1882 <sup>(3)</sup>. In particular, Articles 21 and 22 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 provide for the establishment of a restricted zone in the event of an outbreak of a category A disease, including sheep pox and goat pox, and for certain measures to be applied therein. In addition, Article 21(1) of that Delegated Regulation provides that the restricted zone is to comprise a protection zone, a surveillance zone, and, if necessary, further restricted zone around or adjacent to the protection and surveillance zones.
- (4) Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2778 <sup>(4)</sup> was adopted within the framework of Regulation (EU) 2016/429, and it laid down certain interim emergency measures relating to infection with sheep pox and goat pox in Bulgaria.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 84, 31.3.2016, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/429/oj>.

<sup>(2)</sup> Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 of 17 December 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and the Council, as regards rules for the prevention and control of certain listed diseases (OJ L 174, 3.6.2020, p. 64, ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg\\_del/2020/687/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2020/687/oj)).

<sup>(3)</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1882 of 3 December 2018 on the application of certain disease prevention and control rules to categories of listed diseases and establishing a list of species and groups of species posing a considerable risk for the spread of those listed diseases (OJ L 308, 4.12.2018, p. 21, ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg\\_impl/2018/1882/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2018/1882/oj)).

<sup>(4)</sup> Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2778 of 24 October 2024 concerning certain interim emergency measures relating to sheep pox and goat pox in Bulgaria (OJ L, 2024/2778, 29.10.2024, ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec\\_impl/2024/2778/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2024/2778/oj)).

- (5) After the adoption of Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2778, Bulgaria notified the Commission of an additional outbreak of sheep pox and goat pox in an establishment where ovine and caprine animals were kept. As a result, Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2918<sup>(5)</sup> repealed and replaced Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2778. More particularly, Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2918 provides that the protection, surveillance and further restricted zones to be established by Bulgaria, in accordance with Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687, are to comprise at least the areas listed in the Annex to that Implementing Decision.
- (6) After the adoption of Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2918, Bulgaria notified the Commission of further outbreaks of infection with sheep pox and goat pox in establishments where ovine animals were kept. Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2918 was therefore amended by Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/3111<sup>(6)</sup>.
- (7) Subsequently, Bulgaria has notified the Commission of two additional outbreaks of sheep pox and goat pox in establishments where ovine and caprine animals were kept, located in the regions of Sliven and Haskovo. One of the outbreaks is located outside the restricted zones that were already established as a result of previous outbreaks.
- (8) Therefore, the areas listed as protection, surveillance and further restricted zones for Bulgaria in the Annex to Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2918 should be adjusted, spatially and temporally, in order to prevent the further spread of the disease in Bulgaria and to the rest of the Union, and the duration of the measures to be applied therein should be adjusted. Furthermore, it is necessary to establish additional protection, surveillance and further restricted zones and lay down the duration of the measures to be applied therein in relation to the outbreak confirmed in the region of Sliven. The list of restricted zones and the duration of the measures to be applied therein set out in the Annex to that Implementing Decision should therefore be amended accordingly.
- (9) The size of the zones, the duration of the measures to be applied in the protection, surveillance and further restricted zones are based on the criteria set out in Article 64(1) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 and the rules laid down in Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687, including the epidemiological situation as regards sheep pox and goat pox in the areas affected by that disease and the overall epidemiological situation of sheep pox and goat pox in Bulgaria as well as the level of risk for the further spread of the disease. The duration of the measures also takes into account the international standards of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH<sup>(7)</sup>). In the current epidemiological situation, there is a high risk of the further spread of the disease due to the fact that a new outbreak of sheep pox and goat pox has occurred, with the first outbreak confirmed in the region of Sliven. This indicates that the disease continues to persist and spread over long distances, in spite of the measures already in place.
- (10) The Annex to Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2918 should therefore be amended accordingly.
- (11) Taking into account the current epidemiological situation in the Union as regards sheep pox and goat pox, the period of application of Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2918 should be prolonged until 1 March 2025.
- (12) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed,

<sup>(5)</sup> Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2918 of 19 November 2024 concerning certain emergency measures relating to sheep pox and goat pox in Bulgaria and repealing Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2778 (OJ L, 2024/2918, 22.11.2024, ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec\\_impl/2024/2918/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2024/2918/oj)).

<sup>(6)</sup> Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/3111 of 6 December 2024 amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2918 concerning certain emergency measures relating to sheep pox and goat pox in Bulgaria (OJ L, 2024/3111, 11.12.2024, ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec\\_impl/2024/3111/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2024/3111/oj)).

<sup>(7)</sup> Terrestrial Animal Health Code of the World Organisation for Animal Health, Terrestrial Code Online Access - WOAH - World Organisation for Animal Health.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

*Article 1*

**Amendments to Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2918**

Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2918 is amended as follows:

1. in Article 4, the date '28 February 2025' is replaced by '1 March 2025';
2. the Annex is replaced by the text set out in the Annex to this Decision.

*Article 2*

**Addressee**

This Decision is addressed to the Republic of Bulgaria.

Done at Brussels, 19 December 2024.

*For the Commission*  
Olivér VÁRHELYI  
*Member of the Commission*

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## ANNEX

## A. Protection and surveillance zones established around confirmed outbreaks

Region and ADIS reference number of the outbreak	Areas established as protection and surveillance zones, part of the restricted zones in Bulgaria referred to in Article 1	Date until applicable
<b>Region of Haskovo</b> BG-CAPRIPOX-2024-00003 BG-CAPRIPOX-2024-00004 BG-CAPRIPOX-2024-00006 BG-CAPRIPOX-2024-00007 BG-CAPRIPOX-2024-00009	Protection zone: Those parts of the region of Haskovo, contained within a circle of a radius of 3 kilometres, centred on UTM 30, ETRS89 coordinates Lat. 41.9698, Long. 25.6564 (2024/3), Lat. 41.96, Long. 25.65 (2024/4), Lat. 41.96618 Long. 25.66267 (2024/6), Lat. 1.91051, Long. 25.54653(2024/7), Lat. 41.92, Long. 25.53 (2024/9)	27.12.2024
	Surveillance zone: Those parts of the region of Haskovo, contained within a circle of a radius of 10 kilometres, centred on UTM 30, ETRS89 coordinates Lat. 41.9698, Long. 25.6564 (2024/3), Lat. 41.96, Long. 25.65 (2024/4), Lat. 41.96618 Long. 25.66267 (2024/6), Lat. 41.91051, Long. 25.54653(2024/7), Lat. 41.92, Long. 25.53 (2024/9) excluding the areas contained in the protection zone	5.1.2025
	Surveillance zone: Those parts of the region of Haskovo, contained within a circle of a radius of 10 kilometres, centred on UTM 30, ETRS89 coordinates Lat. 41.9698, Long. 25.6564 (2024/3), Lat. 41.96, Long. 25.65 (2024/4), Lat. 41.96618, Long. 25.66267 (2024/6), Lat. 1.91051, Long. 25.54653(2024/7), Lat. 41.92, Long. 25.53 (2024/9)	28.12.2024–5.1.2025
<b>Region of Sliven</b> BG-CAPRIPOX-2024-00008	Protection zone: Those parts of the region of Sliven, contained within a circle of a radius of 3 kilometres, centred on UTM 30, ETRS89 coordinates Lat. 42.587, Long. 26.4778 (2024/8)	22.12.2024
	Surveillance zone: Those parts of the region of Sliven, contained within a circle of a radius of 10 kilometres, centred on UTM 30, ETRS89 coordinates Lat. 42.587, Long. 26.4778 (2024/8) excluding the areas contained in the protection zone	31.12.2024
	Surveillance zone: Those parts of the region of Sliven, contained within a circle of a radius of 10 kilometres, centred on UTM 30, ETRS89 coordinates Lat. 42.587, Long. 26.4778 (2024/8)	23.12.2024–30.1.2025

**B. Further restricted zones**

Regional unit	Areas included in the further restricted zones established in Bulgaria as referred to in Article 2	Date until applicable
<b>Region of Stara Zagora</b>	Municipalities Radnevo, Stara Zagora	16.11.2024–20.12.2024
	Municipalities Galabovo and Opan	4.2.2025
<b>Region of Haskovo</b>	Entire territory of the region of Haskovo, excluding the areas included in any protection or surveillance zone.	4.2.2025
	Entire territory of the region of Haskovo	6.1.2025–4.2.2025
<b>Region of Sliven</b>	Entire territory of the region of Sliven excluding the areas included in any protection or surveillance zone.	30.1.2025
	Entire territory of the region of Sliven	1.1.2025–30.1.2025
<b>Region of Yambol</b>	Municipalities of Straldzha, Yambol and Tundzha	30.1.2025