COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2022/2304

of 24 November 2022

designating the European Union reference laboratory for Rift Valley fever

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products, amending Regulations (EC) No 999/2001, (EC) No 396/2005, (EC) No 1069/2009, (EC) No 1107/2009, (EU) No 1151/2012, (EU) No 652/2014, (EU) 2016/429 and (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Regulations (EC) No 1/2005 and (EC) No 1099/2009 and Council Directives 98/58/EC, 1999/74/EC, 2007/43/EC, 2008/119/EC and 2008/120/EC, and repealing Regulations (EC) No 854/2004 and (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Directives 89/608/EEC, 89/662/EEC, 90/425/EEC, 91/496/EEC, 96/23/EC, 96/93/EC and 97/78/EC and Council Decision 92/438/EEC (Official Controls Regulation) ([1]), and in particular Article 93(1) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/2156 ([2]) established the European Union reference laboratory for Rift Valley fever.

(2) Following the establishment of the European Union reference laboratory for Rift Valley fever, and in accordance with Article 93(2), point (a), of Regulation (EU) 2017/625, the Commission followed a public selection process for the designation of the European Union reference laboratory for Rift Valley fever.

(3) An evaluation and selection committee was appointed for the public selection process for the designation of the European Union reference laboratory for Rift Valley fever. That evaluation and selection committee concluded that the Italian laboratory Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise 'G. Caporale' complies with the requirements set out in Article 93(3) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 and is capable of performing the tasks set out in Article 94 of that Regulation.

(4) The Italian laboratory Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise 'G. Caporale' should therefore be designated as the European Union reference laboratory for Rift Valley fever. Its work programme should be in conformity with the objectives and priorities of the relevant work programmes adopted by the Commission in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2021/690 of the European Parliament and of the Council ([3]).

(5) In order to ensure that the appropriate level of methods of analysis, test or diagnosis, and the development of validated methods and the coordinated assistance of the official laboratory is maintained, and in accordance with point (b) of Article 93(2) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625, the designation as European Union reference laboratory should be reviewed regularly.

(6) This Regulation should be applicable from 1 January 2023, the date when the European Union reference laboratory for Rift Valley fever should commence its activities.

([1]) OJ L 95, 7.4.2017, p. 1.

([2]) Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/2156 of 17 September 2021 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council by establishing the European Union reference laboratory for Rift Valley fever (OJ L 436, 7.12.2021, p. 26).

([3]) Regulation (EU) 2021/690 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing a programme for the internal market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, the area of plants, animals, food and feed, and European statistics (Single Market Programme) and repealing Regulations (EU) No 99/2013, (EU) No 1287/2013, (EU) No 254/2014 and (EU) No 652/2014 (OJ L 153, 3.5.2021, p. 1).

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

The following laboratory is designated as the European Union reference laboratory for Rift Valley fever:

Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise 'G. Caporale', Via Campo Boario, 64100 Teramo (TE), Italy.

Article 2

The designation in Article 1 shall be reviewed regularly.

Article 3

This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

It shall apply from 1 January 2023.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 24 November 2022.

For the Commission
The President
Ursula VON DER LEYEN