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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2024/2692

of 17 October 2024

amending Annexes I and VIII to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620 as regards the approval or withdrawal of the disease-free status of certain Member States or zones thereof as regards certain listed diseases and the approval of eradication programmes for certain listed diseases

(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') ([1]), and in particular Article 31(4), second subparagraph, and Article 42(4) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Regulation (EU) 2016/429 lays down disease-specific rules for the diseases listed in accordance with Article 5(1) thereof, and it specifies how those rules are to be applied to different categories of listed diseases. Regulation (EU) 2016/429 also provides for the approval or withdrawal by the Commission of the disease-free status of Member States or zones or compartments thereof regarding certain listed diseases referred to in Article 9(1), points (a), (b) and (c), thereof. In addition, Regulation (EU) 2016/429 provides for Member States to establish compulsory eradication programmes for the listed diseases referred to in Article 9(1), point (b), thereof, and for optional eradication programmes for the listed diseases referred to in Article 9(1), point (c), thereof, and for the approval of such programmes by the Commission.

(2) Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689 ([2]) supplements Regulation (EU) 2016/429, and it lays down the criteria for granting, maintaining, suspending, and withdrawing the disease-free status of Member States or zones or compartments thereof, and the requirements for the approval of eradication programmes of Member States or zones or compartments thereof.

(3) Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620 ([3]) lays down implementing rules for the listed diseases, referred to in Article 9(1), points (a), (b) and (c), of Regulation (EU) 2016/429, of animals, as regards the disease-free and non-vaccination status of certain Member States or zones or compartments thereof, and the approval of eradication programmes for those listed diseases. More particularly, it lists in the Annexes thereto, the Member States or zones or compartments thereof with approved disease-free status, and with existing approved compulsory or optional eradication programmes. Due to the changing epidemiological situation in the Union of certain listed diseases, Annexes I and VIII to that Implementing Regulation should be amended.

(4) Firstly, for infection with *Brucella abortus, B. melitensis* and *B. suis* in kept ovine and caprine animals, Italy has notified the Commission of a primary outbreak on 11 December 2023 in the province of Alessandria in the Region of Piemonte, followed by two secondary outbreaks in the same province notified on 8 January 2024 and 1 August 2024. As the whole Region of Piemonte has disease-free status and is listed in Chapter 2 of Part I of Annex I to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620, the approval of the disease-free status from infection with *Brucella abortus, B. melitensis* and *B. suis* in kept ovine and caprine animals should be withdrawn from the province of Alessandria in the Region of Piemonte and the entry for Italy in that list should be amended accordingly.

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

([2]) Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689 of 17 December 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards rules for surveillance, eradication programmes, and disease-free status for certain listed and emerging diseases (OJ L 174, 3.6.2020, p. 211, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2020/689/oj).

([3]) Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620 of 15 April 2021 laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the approval of the disease-free and non-vaccination status of certain Member States or zones or compartments thereof as regards certain listed diseases and the approval of eradication programmes for those listed diseases (OJ L 131, 16.4.2021, p. 78, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2021/620/oj).

(5) Secondly, as regards infection with bluetongue virus (serotypes 1-24) (infection with BTV), Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Luxembourg, Austria, and Sweden have notified the Commission of outbreaks of infection with BTV serotype 3. The outbreaks in Germany were notified in the zone that still has disease-free status as regards that disease. In addition, Austria has notified the Commission of one outbreak of infection with BTV serotype 4. Also, Italy and Spain have notified the Commission of outbreaks of infection with BTV serotype 8. Italy in the region of Valle d'Aosta, and Spain in the autonomous community of Catalonia near to the province of Huesca in the autonomous community of Aragon, and in the autonomous community of the Balearic Islands. As the whole territory of Czechia, Luxembourg and Denmark, Germany (except for Bundesland Bremen, Hessen, Niedersachsen, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Rheinland-Pfalz), and the whole territory of Austria and Sweden, the region of Valle d'Aosta in Italy, and the autonomous community of the Balearic Islands, and the autonomous community of Aragon in Spain have disease-free status, and are listed in Part I of Annex VIII to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620, the approval of the disease-free status from infection with BTV should be withdrawn from the whole territory of Denmark, Luxembourg, Germany as earlier described, Austria, Sweden, several regions of Czechia, the region of Valle d'Aosta in Italy, as well as from the autonomous community of Balearic Islands and from the province of Huesca in the autonomous community of Aragon in Spain. Therefore, the entries for Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Spain, Italy, Luxembourg, Austria and Sweden in that list should be amended accordingly.

(6) In addition, Spain has informed the Commission that it has extended the territorial scope of the optional eradication programme for infection with BTV that has already been approved for the zones listed in Part II of Annex VIII to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620, with the addition of the autonomous community of the Balearic Islands and a zone comprising the province of Huesca in the autonomous community of Aragon. Therefore, those areas should be added to the entry for Spain in Part II of Annex VIII to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620, and the proposed amendment to the optional eradication programme for infection with BTV approved.

(7) Annexes I and VIII to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620 should, therefore, be amended accordingly.

(8) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Annexes I and VIII to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620 are amended in accordance with the Annex to this Regulation.

Article 2

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

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

Done at Brussels, 17 October 2024.

For the Commission
The President
Ursula VON DER LEYEN

ANNEX

Annexes I and VIII to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620 are amended as follows:

(1) in Annex I, in Part I, in Chapter 2, the entry for Italy is replaced by the following:

Member State	Territory
'Italy	Regione Abruzzo Regione Basilicata: Province di Matera Regione Calabria: Province di Catanzaro, Cosenza Regione Campania: Provincia di Benevento, Napoli, Salerno Regione Emilia-Romagna Regione Friuli Venezia Giulia Regione Lazio Regione Liguria Regione Lombardia Regione Marche Regione Molise Regione Piemonte: Provincia de Asti, Biella, Cuneo, Novara, Verbano-Cusio-Ossola, Vercelli and Citta Metropolitana di Torino Regione Puglia: Province di Bari, Barletta-Andria-Trani, Brindisi, Lecce, Taranto Regione Sardegna Regione Toscana Regione Trentino – Alto Adige Regione Umbria Regione Valle d'Aosta Regione Veneto'

(2) Annex VIII is amended as follows:

(a) Part I is amended as follows:

(i) the entry for Czechia is replaced by the following:

Member State	Territory
'Czechia	The whole territory of Czechia except: Karlovy Vary Region, Ústí nad Labem Region, Central Bohemian Region, Prague Region, Pilsen Region, Liberec Region, South Bohemian region, Districts Pelhřimov, Havlíčkův Brod and Jihlava in the Vysočina Region, Districts Pardubice and Chrudim in the Pardubice Region, Districts Jičín and Hradec Králové in the Hradec Králové Region'

(ii) the entry for Denmark is deleted;

(iii) the entry for Germany is deleted;

(iv) the entry for Spain is replaced by the following:

Member State	Territory
'Spain	Comunidad Autónoma de Aragón: Provincia de Zaragoza y Teruel Comunidad Autónoma de Canarias Comunidad Autónoma de Castilla-La Mancha: Provincia of Guadalajara Comunidad Autónoma de Castilla y León, except the following areas: Provincia of Ávila Provincia of Salamanca Cantalejo, Carbonero El Mayor, Santa María la Real de Nieva, Segovia, Villacastín in the Provincia of Segovia Alcañices, Bermillo de Sayago, Puebla de Sanabria in the provincia of Zamora Comunidad Autónoma de La Rioja Comunidad Autónoma de Navarra Comunidad Autónoma del País Vasco Comunidad Autónoma de Valencia: provincia of Castellón and provincia of Valencia'

(v) the entry for Italy is replaced by the following:

Member State	Territory
'Italy	Provincia Autonoma di Bolzano – Alto Adige Regione Friuli Venezia Giulia'

(vi) the entry for Luxembourg is deleted;

(vii) the entry for Austria is deleted;

(viii) the entry for Sweden is deleted;

(b) Part II is replaced by the following:

'PART II

Member States or zones thereof with an approved eradication programme for infection with BTV

Member State	Territory	Date of initial approval as referred to in Article 15(2) of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689
Spain	Comunidad Autónoma de Aragon: Provincia de Huesca Comunidad Autónoma de Andalucía Comunidad Autónoma de Castilla-La Mancha, except the provincia of Guadalajara Comunidad Autónoma de Asturias	21.2.2022'

	Comunidad Autónoma de Cantabria Comunidad Autónoma de las Islas Baleares Comunidad Autónoma de Castilla y León: provincia of Ávila Provincia of Salamanca Cantalejo, Carbonero El Mayor, Santa María la Real de Nieva, Segovia, Villacastín in the provincia of Segovia Alcañices, Bermillo de Sayago, Puebla de Sanabria in the provincia of Zamora Comunidad Autónoma de Cataluña Comunidad Autónoma de Extremadura Comunidad Autónoma de Galicia Comunidad Autónoma de Madrid Comunidad Autónoma de Murcia Comunidad Autónoma de Valencia: provincia of Alicante.	