

II

(Acts whose publication is not obligatory)

COMMISSION

COMMISSION DECISION

of 18 March 2003

repealing Decision 2003/173/EC concerning protective measures in relation to a strong suspicion of avian influenza in Belgium

(notified under document number C(2003) 879)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2003/187/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Directive 90/425/EEC of 26 June 1990 concerning veterinary and zootechnical checks applicable in intra-community trade in certain live animals and products with a view to the completion of the internal market ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Council Directive 2002/33/EC ⁽²⁾, and, in particular, Article 10 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Late on 11 March 2003 the veterinary authorities of Belgium have informed the Commission about a strong suspicion of avian influenza in a poultry flock in the province of Antwerp.
- (2) Avian influenza is a highly contagious poultry disease that can pose a serious threat for the poultry industry.
- (3) The Belgium authorities have immediately, before the official confirmation of the disease, implemented the measures foreseen in Council Directive 92/40/EEC ⁽³⁾ introducing Community measures for the control of avian influenza while further confirmatory diagnostic procedures were carried out.
- (4) For the sake of clarity and transparency the Commission adopted Decision 2003/173/EC ⁽⁴⁾.

- (5) In the light of the results of laboratory testing and epidemiological situation in Belgium, Decision 2003/173/EC should be repealed.

- (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

Decision 2003/173/EC is repealed.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 18 March 2003.

For the Commission

David BYRNE

Member of the Commission

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 224, 18.8.1990, p. 29.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 315, 19.11.2002, p. 14.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 167, 22.6.1992, p. 1.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 69, 13.3.2003, p. 29.