COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 650/2003

of 10 April 2003

amending Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the import of live ovine and caprine animals

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 May 2001 laying down rules for the prevention, control and eradication of certain transmissible spongiform encephalopathies [1], as last amended by Commission Regulation (EC) No 260/2003 [2], and in particular Article 23 thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Commission Regulation (EC) No 260/2003, amending Regulation (EC) No 999/2001, introduced new Community rules for eradication following the confirmation of scrapie in a small ruminant holding, based on the opinion of the Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) of 4 and 5 April 2002 on safe sourcing of small ruminant materials. In the interests of consistency with such rules for eradication, the rules for intra-Community trade in breeding sheep were also amended to remove scrapie-related restrictions from trade in sheep of the ARR/ARR prion protein genotype.

(2) Rules for the import of live ovine and caprine animals should be amended to reflect rules for intra-Community trade.

(3) Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 should therefore be amended accordingly.

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

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Annex IX to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 is amended in accordance with the Annex to this Regulation.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the 20th day following its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

It shall apply from 1 October 2003.

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

Done at Brussels, 10 April 2003.

For the Commission

David BYRNE

Member of the Commission

[1] OJ L 147, 31.5.2001, p. 1.
[2] OJ L 37, 13.2.2003, p. 7.