Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2020/1550 of 23 October 2020 establishing the multiannual programme of controls for the period 2021-2025 to be carried out by Commission experts in the Member States to verify the application of Union agri-food chain legislation

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION (EU) 2020/1550

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establishing the multiannual programme of controls for the period 2021-2025 to be carried out by Commission experts in the Member States to verify the application of Union agri-food chain legislation

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 118(1)(a) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) The responsibility to enforce Union agri-food chain legislation lies with Member States, whose competent authorities monitor and verify, through the organisation of official controls, that relevant Union requirements are effectively complied with and enforced. Parallel to this monitoring and verification, Article 116 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 requires Commission experts to perform controls, including audits, in Member States to verify the application of Union legislation. These Commission controls should be performed in the areas of food and feed safety, animal health and welfare, plant health, plant protection products, and the functioning of national control systems and competent authorities, which operate them, taking into account synergies with control arrangements under the common agricultural policy.

(2) The Commission has put together a multiannual programme of controls for the period 2021-2025 aligned with the Commission's term of office and reflecting its priorities. These controls shall be carried out by the Commission's experts in Member States to verify the application of the legislation in the above areas. Different criteria were used during the prioritisation process, inter alia, identified risk to consumers, animals

***Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2020/1550. (See end of Document for details)*

or plants, past performance of the Member States in the area, production volume, information from relevant sources (for example, the European Food Safety Authority) and from the information management system for official controls (IMSOC) and its components.

(3) This multiannual programme of controls contributes to Commission priority area 'The European Green Deal[(2)]' and to "A Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthier and environmentally-friendly food system"[(3)]. It also contributes to the monitoring of the common agricultural policy in accordance with the rules on cross-compliance set out in Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council[(4)]. The controls set out in the multiannual programme of controls allow the Commission to fulfil its legal obligations to oversee the application of Union law by verifying that official controls in Member States in the relevant areas are in compliance with Union legislation,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The multiannual programme of controls for the period 2021-2025 to be carried out by Commission experts in the Member States as provided for in Article 116(1) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 is set out in the Annex.

Article 2

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

Done at Brussels, 23 October 2020.

For the Commission

The President

Ursula VON DER LEYEN

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ANNEX

This Annex sets out the programme of controls to be carried out by Commission experts in the Member States in areas covered by Regulation (EU) 2017/625 for the period 2021-2025.

For the period concerned, the Commission has identified certain priority areas within the areas of food and feed safety, food quality, animal health and welfare, plant health, plant protection products, and the functioning of national control systems and competent authorities.

The Commission controls shall cover all Member States in each of the priority areas. Specific issues covered by individual controls shall be adapted to the situation in each Member State.

Commission experts shall carry out controls, including on-the-spot verifications, audits, and desk-based analyses in accordance with Article 116 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625.

The multiannual programme for Commission controls in Member States for the period 2021-2025 to verify the application of the rules in the areas covered by Article 1(2) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 covers also other areas provided for in that Regulation, such as fraud and import controls. It is set out in Chapters 1-10 (broken down by area and specific objective) and Chapter 11 (broken down by year) of this Annex.

1. Food and food safety

Priority area	Specific Objectives
Food of animal origin *(e.g. safety of meat of mammals and birds and products thereof, milk and products thereof, fishery products and production hygiene of live bivalve molluscs)*	To verify Member States' compliance with the applicable Union food safety legislation governing the production and placing on the market of food of animal origin (covering also traceability and labelling, including of genetically modified organisms), with a particular focus on meat of mammals and birds and products thereof, milk and products thereof, fishery products, and live bivalve molluscs, and the implementation of official controls thereon.
Foodborne zoonoses *(e.g. Salmonella)*	To verify Member States' compliance with the applicable Union legislation governing the control of foodborne zoonoses, with a particular focus on the level of implementation and effectiveness of the national veterinary programmes co-funded by the Commission and the implementation of official controls thereon.
Food of non-animal origin *(e.g. safety of fruit and vegetables, herbs, spices and sprouts)*	To verify Member States' compliance with the applicable Union food safety legislation governing the production and placing on the market of food of non-animal origin (covering also traceability and labelling, including of genetically modified organisms), with a particular focus on microbiological safety, and the implementation of official controls thereon.

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Residues in live animals and food of animal origin *(residues of veterinary medicinal products, pesticides and contaminants)*	To verify Member States' compliance with the applicable Union legislation governing residues of veterinary medicinal products, pesticides and contaminants in live animals and food of animal origin. To verify that residue monitoring plans submitted by Member States comply with the requirements laid down in the relevant Union legislation.
Contaminants in food of non-animal origin *(e.g. mycotoxins)*	To verify, based on Member States' multiannual national control plans and reports thereon, that official controls on contaminants in food of non-animal origin comply with the requirements laid down in the relevant applicable Union legislation.

2. **Feed and feed safety**

Priority area	Specific Objectives
General feed hygiene *(feed hygiene, approval and registration of establishments, traceability, labelling and contaminants)*	To verify Member States' compliance with the applicable Union legislation governing feed hygiene (with a particular focus on feed hygiene, approval and registration of establishments, contaminants, traceability and labelling, including of genetically modified organisms) and the implementation of official controls thereon.
Medicated feed	To verify Member States' compliance with the Union legal requirements governing the production of medicated feed, applicable from January 2022.
Animal by-products and derived products *(meat sector, processing plants)*	To verify Member States' compliance with the applicable Union legislation governing the handling, use and disposal of animal by-products and derived products generated in the Union or placed on the Union market and the implementation of official controls thereon, with a particular focus on the meat sector and processing plants.

3. **Animal health**

Priority area	Specific Objectives
Active epizootic diseases *(e.g. African swine fever, highly pathogenic avian influenza)*	To verify Member States' compliance with the applicable Union legislation governing the control of the major active animal diseases, such as African swine fever and

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	highly pathogenic avian influenza, and the implementation of official controls thereon.
Non-foodborne zoonoses *(e.g. rabies)*	To verify Member States' compliance with the applicable Union legislation governing the control of non-foodborne zoonoses, with a particular focus on the level of implementation and effectiveness of the national veterinary programmes co-funded by the Commission, and the implementation of official controls thereon.
Enzootic diseases *(e.g. tuberculosis, brucellosis)*	To verify Member States' compliance with the applicable Union legislation governing the control of enzootic diseases, with a particular focus on the level of implementation and effectiveness of the national veterinary programmes co-funded by the Commission, and the implementation of official controls thereon.
Preparedness and prevention *(contingency planning)*	To verify Member States' compliance with the applicable Union legislation governing preparedness to cope with multiple outbreaks of epizootic diseases and the implementation of official controls thereon.

4. **Animal welfare**

Priority area	Specific Objectives
Transport *(unfit animals, livestock vessels, unweaned calves, control posts used for animal transit)*	To verify Member States' compliance with the applicable Union legislation governing animal welfare during transport, with a particular focus on unfit animals, livestock vessels, unweaned calves and control posts used for animal transit, and the implementation of official controls thereon.
On farm *(laying hens)*	To verify Member States' compliance with the applicable Union legislation governing the welfare of laying hens during rearing and the implementation of official controls thereon
Slaughter *(ruminants, poultry)*	To verify Member States' compliance with the applicable Union legislation governing the welfare of ruminants and poultry at slaughter, and the implementation of official controls thereon.

5. **Plant health**

Priority area	Specific Objectives