Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/1971 of 26 November 2019 on recognition of the 'Universal Feed Assurance Scheme' for demonstrating compliance with the sustainability criteria under Directives 98/70/EC and 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION (EU) 2019/1971

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Directive 98/70/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 October 1998 relating to the quality of petrol and diesel fuels and amending Council Directive 93/12/EEC[(1)] , and in particular the second subparagraph of Article 7c(4) thereof,

Having regard to Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources and amending and subsequently repealing Directives 2001/77/EC and 2003/30/EC[(2)], and in particular the second subparagraph of Article 18(4) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Articles 7b and 7c of, and Annex IV to, Directive 98/70/EC and Articles 17 and 18 of, and Annex V to, Directive 2009/28/EC lay down similar sustainability criteria for biofuels and bioliquids, and similar procedures for verifying that biofuels and bioliquids comply with those criteria.

(2) Where biofuels and bioliquids are to be taken into account for the purposes referred to in Article 17(1)(a), (b) and (c) of Directive 2009/28/EC, Member States should require economic operators to show that biofuels and bioliquids comply with the sustainability criteria set out in Article 17(2) to (5) of that Directive.

(3) The Commission may decide that voluntary national or international schemes setting standards for the production of biomass products contain accurate data for the purposes of Article 17(2) of Directive 2009/28/EC, and/or demonstrate that consignments of biofuel or bioliquid comply with the sustainability criteria set out in Article 17(3), (4) and (5), and/or that no materials have been intentionally modified or discarded so that the consignment or part thereof would fall under Annex IX. Where an economic operator provides proof or data obtained in accordance with a voluntary scheme that has been recognised by the Commission, to the extent covered by the recognition decision, a Member State should not require the supplier to provide further evidence of compliance with the sustainability criteria.

(4) The request for recognition that the 'Universal Feed Assurance Scheme' demonstrates that consignments of biofuel comply with the sustainability criteria set out in Directives 98/70/EC and 2009/28/EC was submitted to the Commission on 14 June 2019. The scheme that is based in Confederation House, East of England Showground, Peterborough, PE2 6XE, United Kingdom, cover feed ingredients and compound feeds as well as combinable crops. This scheme covers the trading, transport and storage stages of agricultural feedstock from farm gate to first processor and, for the other stages, relies on other voluntary schemes recognised by the Commission. As such, it is the responsibility of the 'Universal Feed Assurance Scheme' to ensure that the recognition issued by the Commission on those schemes with which it jointly operates remains valid during the length of cooperation. The recognised scheme should be made available at the transparency platform established under Directive 2009/28/EC.

(5) In assessing the 'Universal Feed Assurance Scheme', the Commission found that it covers adequately the sustainability criteria set out in Directives 98/70/EC and 2009/28/EC, except Article 7b(2) of Directive 98/70/EC and Article 17(2) of Directive 2009/28/EC. It does, however, provide accurate data on elements that are required by economic operators downstream the chain of custody to demonstrate compliance with Article 7b(2) of Directive 98/70/EC and Article 17(2) of Directive 2009/28/EC and applies a mass balance methodology in line with the requirements of Article 7c(1) of Directive 98/70/EC and Article 18(1) of Directive 2009/28/EC.

(6) The assessment of the 'Universal Feed Assurance Scheme' found that it meets adequate standards of reliability, transparency and independent auditing and also complies with the methodological requirements set out in Annex IV to Directive 98/70/EC and in Annex V to Directive 2009/28/EC.

(7) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee on the Sustainability of Biofuels and Bioliquids,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The 'Universal Feed Assurance Scheme' ('the scheme'), submitted for recognition to the Commission on 14 June 2019, demonstrates that consignments of biofuels and bioliquids produced in accordance with the standards for the production of biofuels and bioliquids set in the scheme comply with the sustainability criteria laid down in Article 7b(3), (4) and (5) of Directive 98/70/EC and Article 17(3), (4) and (5) of Directive 2009/28/EC.

The scheme also contains accurate data for the purposes of Article 17(2) of Directive 2009/28/EC and Article 7b(2) of Directive 98/70/EC in as far as it ensures that all relevant information from economic operators upstream the chain of custody is transferred to the economic operators downstream the chain of custody.

Article 2

In the event that the contents of the scheme, as submitted for recognition to the Commission on 14 June 2019, change in a way that might affect the basis of this Decision, such changes shall be notified to the Commission without delay. The