Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/616 of 15 April 2019 amending the Annex to Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/247 on protective measures in relation to outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in certain Member States (notified under document C(2019) 3024) (Text with EEA relevance)

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION (EU) 2019/616

of 15 April 2019

amending the Annex to Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/247 on protective measures in relation to outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in certain Member States

(notified under document C(2019) 3024)

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Council Directive 89/662/EEC of 11 December 1989 concerning veterinary checks in intra-Community trade with a view to the completion of the internal market[(1)], and in particular Article 9(4) thereof,

Having regard to Council Directive 90/425/EEC of 26 June 1990 concerning veterinary checks applicable in intra-Union trade in certain live animals and products with a view to the completion of the internal market[(2)], and in particular Article 10(4) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/247[(3)] was adopted following outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H5 in a number of Member States ('the concerned Member States'), and the establishment of protection and surveillance zones by the competent authority of the concerned Member States in accordance with Article 16(1) of Council Directive 2005/94/EC[(4)].

(2) Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/247 provides that the protection and surveillance zones established by the competent authorities of the concerned Member States in accordance with Directive 2005/94/EC are to comprise at least the areas listed as protection and surveillance zones in the Annex to that Implementing Decision. Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/247 also lays down that the measures to be applied in the protection and surveillance zones, as provided for in Article 29(1) and Article 31 of Directive 2005/94/EC, are to be maintained until at least the dates for those zones set out in the Annex to that Implementing Decision.

(3) Since the date of its adoption, Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/247 has been amended several times to take account of developments in the epidemiological situation in the Union as regards avian influenza. In particular, Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/247 was amended by Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/696[(5)] in order to lay

Changes to legislation: *There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/616. (See end of Document for details)*

down rules regarding the dispatch of consignments of day-old chicks from the areas listed in the Annex to Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/247. That amendment took into account the fact that day-old chicks pose a very low risk for the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza compared to other poultry commodities.

(4) Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/247 was also subsequently amended by Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/1841[(6)] in order to strengthen the disease control measures applicable where there is an increased risk for the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza. Consequently, Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/247 now provides for the establishment at Union level of further restricted zones in the concerned Member States, as referred to in Article 16(4) of Directive 2005/94/EC, following an outbreak or outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza, and the duration of the measures to be applied therein. Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/247 now also lays down rules for the dispatch of live poultry, day-old chicks and hatching eggs from the further restricted zones to other Member States, subject to certain conditions.

(5) In addition, the Annex to Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/247 has been amended numerous times, mainly to take account of changes in the boundaries of the protection and surveillance zones established by the concerned Member States in accordance with Directive 2005/94/EC.

(6) The Annex to Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/247 was last amended by Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/490[(7)], following the notification by Bulgaria of an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza in a poultry holding in the region of Lovech of that Member State. Bulgaria also notified the Commission that it had duly taken the necessary measures required in accordance with Directive 2005/94/EC following the outbreak, including the establishment of protection and surveillance zones around the infected poultry holding.

(7) Since the date of the last amendment made to Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/247 by Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/490, Bulgaria has notified the Commission of new outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H5 in the regions of Lovech and Plovdiv of that Member State.

(8) Bulgaria has also notified the Commission that it has taken the necessary measures required in accordance with Directive 2005/94/EC following the outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in the regions of Lovech and Plovdiv, including the establishment of protection and surveillance zones around the infected poultry holdings in that Member State.

(9) The Commission has examined those measures in collaboration with Bulgaria, and the Commission is satisfied that the boundaries of the protection and surveillance zones, established by the competent authority of Bulgaria, are at a sufficient distance to the poultry holdings where the recent outbreaks have been confirmed.

(10) In order to prevent any unnecessary disturbance to trade within the Union, and to avoid unjustified barriers to trade being imposed by third countries, it is necessary to rapidly describe at Union level, in collaboration with Bulgaria, the protection and surveillance

***Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/616. (See end of Document for details)*

zones established in Bulgaria, in accordance with Directive 2005/94/EC, following the recent outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in that Member State.

(11) Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/247 should therefore be updated to take account of the up-to-date epidemiological situation in Bulgaria, as regards highly pathogenic avian influenza. In particular, the newly established protection and surveillance zones in Bulgaria, now subject to movement restrictions in accordance with Directive 2005/94/EC, should be listed in the Annex to Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/247.

(12) The Annex to Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/247 should be amended to update regionalisation at Union level in order to include the protection and surveillance zones established in Bulgaria, in accordance with Directive 2005/94/EC, following the recent outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in that Member State, and the duration of the restrictions applicable therein.

(13) Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/247 should therefore be amended accordingly.

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

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Annex to Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/247 is amended in accordance with the Annex to this Decision.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 15 April 2019.

For the Commission

Jyrki KATAINEN

Vice-President