Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/1698 of 9 November 2018 concerning certain protective measures relating to African swine fever in Bulgaria (notified under document C(2018) 7543) (Only the Bulgarian text is authentic) (Text with EEA relevance)

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION (EU) 2018/1698

of 9 November 2018

concerning certain protective measures relating to African swine fever in Bulgaria

(notified under document C(2018) 7543)

(Only the Bulgarian text is authentic)

(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) African swine fever is an infectious viral disease affecting domestic and feral pig populations and can have a severe impact on the profitability of pig farming causing disturbance to trade within the Union and exports to third countries.

(2) In the event of a case of African swine fever in feral pigs, there is a risk that the disease agent may spread to other feral pig populations and to pig holdings. As a result, it may spread from one Member State to another Member State and to third countries through trade in live pigs or their products.

(3) Council Directive 2002/60/EC[(3)] lays down minimum measures to be applied within the Union for the control of African swine fever. In particular, Article 15 of Directive 2002/60/EC provides for certain measures to be taken following the confirmation of one or more cases of African swine fever in feral pigs.

(4) Bulgaria has informed the Commission of the current African swine fever situation on its territory, and in accordance with Article 15 of Directive 2002/60/EC, has taken a number of measures including the establishment of an infected area, where the measures referred to in Article 15 of that Directive are applied, in order to prevent the spread of that disease.

Changes to legislation: *There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/1698. (See end of Document for details)*

(5) 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 identify at Union level the infected area for African swine fever in Bulgaria in collaboration with that Member State.

(6) Accordingly, the infected area in Bulgaria should be listed in the Annex to this Decision and the duration of that regionalisation fixed. The duration of the regionalisation was established considering the epidemiology of the disease and the time required to implement the measures in line with Directive 2002/60/EC.

(7) 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

Bulgaria shall ensure that the infected area established by that Member State, where the measures provided for in Article 15 of Directive 2002/60/EC apply, comprises at least the areas listed in the Annex to this Decision.

Article 2

This Decision shall apply until 10 February 2019.

Article 3

This Decision is addressed to the Republic of Bulgaria.

Done at Brussels, 9 November 2018.

For the Commission

Vytenis ANDRIUKAITIS

Member of the Commission