

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION (EU) 2023/1458**of 11 July 2023****concerning certain interim emergency measures relating to African swine fever in Greece***(notified under document C(2023) 4794)***(Only the Greek 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 Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health ('Animal Health Law') ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 259(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) African swine fever is an infectious viral disease affecting kept and wild porcine animals and can have a severe impact on the concerned animal population and the profitability of farming causing disturbance to movements of consignments of those animals and products thereof within the Union and exports to third countries.
- (2) In the event of outbreaks of African swine fever in kept porcine animals, there is a serious risk of the spread of that disease to other establishments of kept porcine animals.
- (3) Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 ⁽²⁾ supplements the rules for the control of the listed diseases referred to in Article 9(1), points (a), (b) and (c), of Regulation (EU) 2016/429, and defined as category A, B and C diseases in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1882 ⁽³⁾. In particular, Articles 21 and 22 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 provide for the establishment of a restricted zone in the event of an outbreak of a category A disease, including African swine fever, and for certain measures to be applied therein. In addition, Article 21(1) of that Delegated Regulation provides that the restricted zone is to comprise a protection zone, a surveillance zone, and, if necessary, further restricted zones around or adjacent to the protection and surveillance zones.
- (4) Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594 ⁽⁴⁾ lays down special disease control measures regarding African swine fever. In particular, Article 3, point (a), of that Implementing Regulation provides for the establishment of a restricted zone in the case of an outbreak of African swine fever in kept porcine animals, in accordance with Article 21(1) of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687.
- (5) Greece has informed the Commission of the current African swine fever situation on its territory, following the confirmation of one outbreak of that disease in kept porcine animals in the Region of West Macedonia on 5 July 2023 and, in accordance with Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 and Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594, it has established a restricted zone, which comprises protection and surveillance zones, where the general disease control measures laid down in Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 are applied, in order to prevent the further spread of that disease.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 84, 31.3.2016, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 of 17 December 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and the Council, as regards rules for the prevention and control of certain listed diseases (OJ L 174, 3.6.2020, p. 64).

⁽³⁾ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1882 of 3 December 2018 on the application of certain disease prevention and control rules to categories of listed diseases and establishing a list of species and groups of species posing a considerable risk for the spread of those listed diseases (OJ L 308, 4.12.2018, p. 21).

⁽⁴⁾ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594 of 16 March 2023 laying down special disease control measures for African swine fever and repealing Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/605 (OJ L 79, 17.3.2023, p. 65).

- (6) In order to prevent any unnecessary disturbance to trade within the Union and to avoid unjustified barriers to trade by third countries, it is necessary to identify at Union level the restricted zone, which comprises protection and surveillance zones for African swine fever in Greece in collaboration with that Member State.
- (7) Given the urgency of the epidemiological situation in the Union as regards the spread of African swine fever, it is important that the measures laid down in this Implementing Decision apply as soon as possible.
- (8) Accordingly, pending the opinion of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed, the infected zone in Greece should be established immediately and listed in the Annex to this Decision and the duration of that zoning fixed.
- (9) This Decision is to be reviewed at the next meeting of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Greece shall ensure that:

- (a) a restricted zone which comprises a protection zone and a surveillance zone is established immediately by Greece in accordance with Article 21(1) of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687, subject to the conditions laid down in that Article;
- (b) the protection and surveillance zones referred to in point (a) comprise at least the areas listed in the Annex to this Decision.

Article 2

This Decision shall apply until 5 October 2023.

Article 3

This Decision is addressed to the Hellenic Republic.

Done at Brussels, 11 July 2023.

For the Commission
Stella KYRIAKIDES
Member of the Commission

ANNEX

Areas established as the restricted zone in Greece as referred to in Article 1	Date until applicable
Protection zone: 1. In the regional unit of Florina The municipal department of Skopos (Florina municipality)	5 October 2023
Surveillance zone: 1. In the regional unit of Florina The municipal departments of Achlada, Meliti, Lofi, Vevi, Sitaria, Palestra, Neochoraki, Tripotamos, Itea, Papagiannis, Marina, Mesochori and Mesokampos (Florina municipality) The municipal departments of Kelli, Klidi, Petres, Agios Panteleimon and Faraggi (Amintaio municipality) 2. In the regional unit of Pella The municipal departments of Agios Athanasios, Panagitsa, Arnissa and Perea (Edessa municipality) The municipal departments of Orma and Sarakini (Almopia municipality)	5 October 2023