

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION (EU) 2023/1554**of 19 July 2023****concerning certain interim emergency measures relating to African swine fever in Croatia***(notified under document C(2023) 4985)***(Only the Croatian 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 wild porcine animals, there is a serious risk of the spread of that disease to other wild porcine animals and to establishments of kept porcine animals.
- (3) Commission Delegated Regulation 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 63 to 66 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 provide for certain measures to be taken in the event of an official confirmation of an outbreak of a category A disease in wild animals, including African swine fever in wild porcine animals. Notably, those provisions provide for the establishment of an infected zone and prohibitions on movements of wild animals of listed species and products of animal origin thereof.
- (4) Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594 ⁽⁴⁾ lays down special disease control measures regarding African swine fever. In particular, in the event of an outbreak of that disease in wild porcine animals in an area of a Member State, Article 3, point (b), of that Implementing Regulation provides for the establishment of an infected zone in accordance with Article 63 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687. In addition, Article 6 of that Implementing Regulation provides that that area is to be listed as a restricted zone II in Part II of Annex I thereto and that the infected zone, established in accordance with Article 63 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687, is to be adjusted without delay to comprise at least the restricted zone II. The special control measures for African swine fever laid down in Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594 include, inter alia, prohibitions on movements of consignments of porcine animals kept in restricted zones II and products thereof outside those restricted zones.

⁽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).

- (5) Croatia has informed the Commission of the confirmation of one outbreak of African swine fever in a wild porcine animal in the Karlovacka Region on 13 July 2023. Accordingly, the competent authority of that Member State established an infected zone in accordance with Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 and Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594.
- (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 infected zone for African swine fever in Croatia in collaboration with that Member State.
- (7) In order to prevent the further spread of African swine fever, pending the listing of the area of Croatia affected by the recent outbreaks in wild porcine animals as a restricted zone II in Part II of Annex I to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594, the special control measures for African swine fever laid down therein, that apply to movements of consignments of porcine animals kept in restricted zones II and products thereof outside those zones, should also apply to movements of those consignments from the infected zone established by Croatia following that recent outbreak, in addition to the measures laid down in Articles 63 to 66 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687.
- (8) Accordingly, that infected zone should be listed in the Annex to this Decision and it should be subject to the special control measures for African swine fever that apply to restricted zones II laid down in Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594. However, due to this new epidemiological situation of African swine fever and taking account of the increased immediate risk of the further spread of the disease, movements of consignments of kept porcine animals and products thereof to other Member States and to third countries should not be authorised from the infected zone in accordance with that Implementing Regulation. The duration of that zoning should be also laid down in this Decision.
- (9) Therefore, in order to mitigate the risks arising from the recent outbreak of African swine fever in wild porcine animals in Croatia, this Decision should provide that the movements to other Member States and third countries of consignments of porcine animals kept in the infected zone and products thereof should not be authorised by Croatia until the expiry date of this Decision.
- (10) 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.
- (11) Accordingly, pending the opinion of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed, the infected zone in Croatia should be established immediately and listed in the Annex to this Decision and the duration of that zoning fixed.
- (12) 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

Croatia shall ensure that an infected zone for African swine fever is established immediately by Croatia in accordance with Article 63 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 and Article 3, point (b) of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594, and that it comprises at least the areas listed in the Annex to this Decision.

Article 2

Croatia shall ensure that the special control measures for African swine fever applicable to restricted zones II laid down in Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594 apply in the areas listed as an infected zone in the Annex to this Decision, in addition to the measures laid down in Articles 63 to 66 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687.

Article 3

Croatia shall ensure that consignments of porcine animals kept in the areas listed as an infected zone in the Annex and products thereof are not authorised for movements to other Member States and to third countries.

Article 4

This Decision shall apply until 12 October 2023.

Article 5

This Decision is addressed to the Republic of Croatia.

Done at Brussels, 19 July 2023.

For the Commission
Stella KYRIAKIDES
Member of the Commission

ANNEX

Areas established as the infected zone in Croatia as referred to in Article 1	Date until applicable
a) Karlovačka županija — općina Rakovica — općina Slunj — općina Cetingrad — općina Plaški — općina Saborsko b) Ličko-senjska županija — općina Plitvička jezera c) Sisačko-moslavačka županija — općina Dvor — općina Donji Kukuruzari — općina Majur — grad Hrvatska Kostajnica — općina Hrvatska Dubica — naselje Slabinja — naselje Živaja — grad Glina — naselje Momčilović Kosa — naselje Trnovac Glinski — naselje Brestik — naselje Martinovići — naselje Mali Gradac — naselje Veliki Gradac — grad Petrinja — naselje Tremušnjak — naselje Veliki Šušnjar — naselje Donja Pastuša — naselje Mačkovo Selo — naselje Begovići — naselje Blinja — naselje Dodoši — naselje Miočinovići — naselje Bijelnik — naselje Jabukovac — naselje Jošavica — naselje Gornja Mlinoga — naselje Gornja Pastuša — općina Sunja — naselje Radonja Luka — naselje Čapljani — naselje Drljača — naselje Kladari — naselje Vukoševac — naselje Šaš — naselje Slovinci — naselje Četvrtkovac — naselje Jasenovčani — naselje Papići — naselje Mala Gradusa — naselje Timarci — naselje Mala Paukova — naselje Velika Gradusa — naselje Staza — naselje Kostreši Šaški — naselje Pobrdani — naselje Sjeverovac — naselje Donji Hrastovac	12.10.2023