

Current situation on the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza

(18/01) On 8 May 2024, the European Commission published Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/1297 in the EU Official Journal L concerning emergency measures in relation to outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in certain Member States following the recent HPAI outbreaks in **Hungary** (in Békés county). The annex to the decision (EU) 2024/1297 contains the updated territorial outlines of the protection and surveillance zones as well as the provisional duration of the protective measures.

Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/1297, which has now been published, amends Implementing Decision (EU) 2023/2447 accordingly. Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/1297 is available at the following link: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2024/1297/oj

Current situation on African swine fever

(18/02) On 8 May 2024, the European Commission published Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/1310 concerning certain interim emergency measures relating to African swine fever in **Poland**. Poland has informed the Commission of the confirmation of one outbreak of African swine fever in wild porcine animals in the Pomorskie Region on 25 April 2024 in an area that was previously free of that disease. 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.

Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/1310 is available at the following link: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2024/1310/oj

Amendment of third country lists for imports of poultry products and meat products

(18/04) Annexes XIV and XV to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 have been corrected and amended respectively as regards the list of third countries, territories or zones thereof from which consignments of fresh meat of poultry and wild feathered game and meat products of ungulates, poultry and wild feathered game are authorised to enter the Union. The corresponding Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/1170 was published in Official Journal L on 30 April 2024. The following corrections concerning the wild game and poultry sector are provided for in this Regulation:

Annex XIV Section B of Part 1: **Moldova** has notified the Commission of several outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in poultry since 29 December 2023. Following those outbreaks, Moldova has established restricted zones of at least 10 km around the affected establishments and implemented a stamping-out policy in order to control the presence of HPAI and limit the spread of that disease. On the basis of the Commission's evaluation and in order to protect the animal health status of the Union, the entry into the Union of consignments of fresh meat of poultry should be authorised from the whole territory of Moldova, except for the districts which were affected by the recent outbreaks of HPAI. Therefore, as regionalisation is applied in that third country, the zone MD-1 should be listed in column 2 of the table set out in Section B of Part 1 of Annex XIV to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404, and an entry for Moldova with a description of that zone should be inserted in the table set out in Part 2 of that Annex.

Annex XV: Montenegro notified the Commission of a first occurrence of African swine fever in wild boar in January 2024. Taking account of the new epidemiological situation as regards African swine fever in Montenegro and considering that the minimum temperature of 70 °C referred to in the risk-mitigating treatment D is not effective to inactivate the African swine fever virus, the more severe risk-mitigating treatment C should be assigned to Montenegro for the entry into the Union of consignments of meat

products of kept porcine animals from that third country. In addition, the use of the risk-mitigating treatment D should be limited for Montenegro to the treatment for raw ham consisting of natural fermentation and maturation of not less than nine months and resulting in certain characteristics as provided for in the description of the treatment D in Annex XXVI to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692.

Furthermore, due to a higher risk for the disease transmission through meat products of wild porcine animals, the entry into the Union of consignments of such meat products of wild porcine animals, except for domestic breeds, from Montenegro should be suspended. Therefore, the entry for that third country in Section A of Part 1 of Annex XV to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 should be amended.

Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/1170 enters into force on the twentieth day following its publication, i.e. on 20 May 2024. It is available at the following link:

http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2024/1170/oj

EFSA publishes safety assessments on food enzymes

(18/05) The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has published the following opinions on the safety assessment of food enzymes:

Safety evaluation of the food enzyme leucyl aminopeptidase from the non-genetically modified *Aspergillus oryzae* strain NZYM-BU

The food enzyme leucyl aminopeptidase (EC 3.4.11.1) is produced with the non-genetically modified *Aspergillus oryzae* strain AE-GT and is intended for use in the following food manufacturing processes: Processing of cereals and other grains for the production of bakery and brewing products, processing of meat and fish products for the production of protein hydrolysates, processing of plant and fungal products for the production of protein hydrolysates, and processing of yeast and yeast products.

Based on the data provided, the Panel concluded that this food enzyme does not give rise to safety concerns under the intended conditions of use.

Safety evaluation of the food enzyme oryzin from the non-genetically modified *Aspergillus ochraceus* strain AE-P

The food enzyme oryzine (EC 3.4.21.63) is produced with the non-genetically modified *Aspergillus ochraceus* strain AE-P. The food enzyme is intended for use in nine food production processes: Processing of cereals and other grains for the production of bakery products, processing of eggs and egg products, processing of dairy products for the production of flavour preparations and modified milk proteins, processing of meat and fish products for the production of modified meat and fish products and protein hydrolysates, processing of plant and fungal products for the production of plant analogues of milk and dairy products and protein hydrolysates, and processing of yeast and yeast products.

The Panel concluded that this food enzyme does not give rise to safety concerns under the intended conditions of use.

Eight smoke flavourings lose EU authorisation as food additives

(18/06) The authorisation of eight smoke flavourings as food additives in the European Union will not be extended. The Member States recently adopted a corresponding proposal by the EU Commission. According to a spokeswoman of the Brussels authority, the flavourings in question are SF-001, SF-002, SF-003, SF-004, SF-005, SF-006, SF-008 and SF-009. As a result, the manufacturers' applications for re-authorisation have failed. For the flavours SF-007 and SF-010, the approval already expired on 1 January 2024. In both cases, no re-authorisation had been requested.

The decision was preceded by a scientific assessment by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). EFSA concluded in November 2023 that genotoxicity could either be confirmed or not excluded for all

eight smoke flavourings assessed. EFSA's opinion was based on an updated methodology, assessing new data submitted by applicants. It referred to the specific flavours that can be added to foods, but not the foods themselves. The expiry periods for the authorisations are to be based on the intended use. The substitution of traditional smoking - for example for ham, fish and cheese - is to be permitted for a further five years. For uses in which the smoke flavour is used as an additional flavour enhancer - such as in soups, crisps and sauces - a phase-out period of only two years is granted. The regulation will be formally adopted by the Commission in the coming weeks and will then enter into force in the near future.

Poultry market in South and Southeast Asia has great growth potential

(18/07) The poultry market in South and Southeast Asia could grow strongly by 2030 and thus play a crucial role in the growth of global poultry production. After surviving a period of slower growth from 2020 to 2023, the poultry sector in South and Southeast Asia is now on the verge of a strong recovery. Experts at Rabobank predict a combined overall growth of 30 percent by 2030, driven by robust economic prospects, a growing population and a shift in consumer preferences towards poultry as the preferred protein source. India, Indonesia and Pakistan are expected to account for 60 percent of the total growth. According to Rabobank, there will be many opportunities for value creation in addition to volume growth, and the expected market growth offers a wealth of investment opportunities.

According to analysts, the prospects for growth in volume and value will make investments in this region attractive to local, regional and global investors. This is likely to require a significant expansion and modernisation of local poultry supply chains. Even though local production will continue to dominate, imports will play a strategic role in the regional supply chain. With less than five percent of the market supplied by imports, countries such as Thailand, India and Vietnam have the potential to become major exporters.

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