

Amendment to the lists of third countries for imports of poultry commodities from Israel and the United States

(39/01) Annexes V and XIV to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 as regards the entries for Israel and the United States in the lists of third countries authorised for the entry into the Union of consignments of poultry, germinal products of poultry, and fresh meat and meat products from poultry and game birds has been amended again in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). The corresponding Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/2610 has been published in the Official Journal L on 2 October 2024.

Israel has informed the Commission about the confirmation of an outbreak of HPAI, subtype H5N1 in a poultry establishment with turkeys in the Northern District on 4 September 2024.

To reflect that recent outbreak of HPAI in the Northern District in Israel, the specific condition 'P1' in column 4 of the table in Section B, Part 1 of Annexes V and XIV to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 should be added for the relevant zones in Israel.

The **United States** have notified the Commission of two outbreaks of HPAI in poultry in the states of California and Florida, which were confirmed on 18 September 2024. With the implementing regulation that has now been published, the EU Commission has suspended the entry into the Union of consignments of poultry, germinal products of poultry, and fresh meat of poultry and game birds from this areas mentioned in the United States.

In addition, the United States has provided updated information to the Commission in relation to 15 outbreaks of HPAI in poultry in the states of Colorado (1), Florida (3), Iowa (2), Michigan (2), Minnesota (5) and New Mexico (2), which were confirmed between 12 April 2024 and 19 July 2024. The Commission has evaluated the information submitted by the United States, and considers that it has provided appropriate guarantees that the animal health situation that gave rise to the suspension of the entry of consignments of certain products into the Union from the concerned zones, as set out in Annexes V and XIV to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404, no longer represents a threat to animal or public health within the Union, and that, consequently, the entry into the Union of those consignments from the concerned zones of the United States, from which entry into the Union had been suspended, should be reauthorised.

Annexes V and XIV to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 were amended accordingly to take account of the current epidemiological situation as regards HPAI in Canada and the United States. Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/2610 entered into force on 3 October 2024 and is available at the following link: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2024/2610/oj

Commission publishes 2023 Annual Report on food safety alerts and agri-food fraud investigations

(39/02) On 16 September, the European Commission published its 2023 report on the Alert and Cooperation Network, which facilitates cooperation and information exchange between Member States on official controls in the agri-food chain. The report reveals a significant increase in notifications compared to 2022 – a sign of the growth in cooperation between Member States in this area.

The Alert and Cooperation Network is composed of four sub-networks, each with an individual focus. The Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) facilitates the rapid exchange information between food safety authorities on health risks related to food, feed or food contact materials. In 2023, there was an 8% rise in RASFF notifications, with a total of 4695 notifications. As in previous years, the most reported issue in RASFF concerned pesticide residues, followed closely by pathogenic micro-organisms.

The top notifying countries continued to be Germany, the Netherlands, and Belgium. The Administrative Assistance and Cooperation component (AAC) allows Member States to notify violations of EU food safety legislation which do not constitute a health risk. In 2023, there was a 24% increase in AAC notifications, with 3166 notifications.

The majority of AAC notifications in 2023 were linked to non-compliant fruits and vegetables, again mainly due to pesticide residues, followed by cases of mislabelling, such as unauthorised health claims for food supplements. The Agri-Food Fraud Network (FFN) registered a 26% rise in notifications, with 758 fraud suspicions. The illegal trade of cats and dogs remained a major issue, with 414 notifications. Other suspicions related to meat substitution, honey adulteration, and mislabelled olive oil. Additionally, 1075 AAC notifications and 1625 RASFF notifications were flagged as potential fraud, prompting deeper inspections or investigations by Member States.

The full [2023 ACN annual report can be found here](#)

EU Commission publishes report on official controls in 2022

(39/03) In September, the Commission published the report on official controls on food and feed, animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products carried out in EU countries in 2022, providing insights into official controls and audits. This report highlights the importance of these controls to maintain high levels of health protection and trust in the food chain, from farm to fork. By auditing and controlling that businesses comply with legal requirements, European consumers can be confident that their food is safe, and trade in food, animals, and plants within the EU and with non-EU countries can flow smoothly.

National authorities are responsible for conducting official controls based on risk assessments. If businesses along the food chain do not meet the necessary standards, authorities must take action to bring operators back into compliance. The report presents this data through standardised and user-friendly, EU-wide graphs, showing the number of active food business entities, official controls performed, non-compliance issues identified, and administrative sanctions and judicial actions taken.

In 2022, around 16.4 million business entities were active in the EU and subject to official controls by national authorities, resulting in over 5 million official controls, the identification of approximately 1.2 million non-compliance issues, and the imposition of 475 thousand administrative sanctions, as well as 12 thousand judicial actions. The Commission also played a supportive role, helping EU countries improve their official control systems through training and meetings with experts.

The accompanying staff working document provides more detailed information on the controls performed by national authorities and the Commission. The report emphasizes that EU countries have the necessary control systems in place to maintain food and feed safety and a healthy internal market. Commission controls have identified areas for improvement, and verify that national authorities generally take appropriate corrective measures to address shortcomings.

Discover more about official controls in the food chain, annual reports by EU countries and the details of this Commission reports by clicking on the link below.

[Annual reports - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

Deforestation-free supply chains: Southern hemisphere countries raise concerns in WTO committee

(39/04) At the meeting of the Agriculture Committee of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the European Union was confronted with far-reaching criticism of its regulation for deforestation-free supply

chains (EUDR) from several countries in the southern hemisphere. As the WTO announced on 26 September, a corresponding agenda item was requested by Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Indonesia, Nigeria, Paraguay and Peru. The countries concerned expressed considerable concerns about the impact of the new EU regulation on global trade. Although the political thrust is recognised, the EUDR is also criticised as a unilateral measure with a punitive character. In view of the imminent entry into force on 30 December 2024, there is also criticism that there is still a lack of clear guidelines for implementation.

Some governments are also complaining about excessive burdens for producers in countries with a low risk of deforestation. They called for further consultations with the EU to find workable solutions. The group that had put the item on the agenda urged the EU to postpone the implementation of the regulation and the enforcement of sanctions until major issues had been resolved. In addition to the warning of significant trade disruption, the focus was on the impact on small farmers in developing countries. These could be excluded from the European market as a result of the new regulation. Meanwhile, large food companies are ready for the implementation.

Although the EU Commission has not yet practicably implemented the application of the EUDR with the raw materials and products affected to date (soya, beef, palm oil, cocoa, coffee, natural rubber and wood as well as certain products made from these) and resistance to the start of application from the end of this year is currently growing ever stronger, the Commission already appears to be considering expanding the product range. According to reports, the European association of trade in cereals, oilseeds, rice, pulses, olive oil, oils and fats, animal feed and agrosupply, COCERAL, has received a questionnaire from the Commission regarding a possible extension of the scope of the EUDR. Possible products that could be included include maize and poultry meat. COCERAL intends to speak out against this extension.

Niche market for meat substitutes is growing

(39/09) In Germany, the proportion of vegetarians and vegans has increased in recent years. According to a Forsa survey, around 9% of consumers were vegetarian in 2023 and another 3% were vegan. Eggs are often used in the recipes for the production of vegetarian meat substitutes. It remains to be seen whether all respondents actually behave as stated in the survey, reports Marktinfo Eier & Geflügel (MEG). However, it is a fact that the market for vegan and vegetarian food preparations has grown in importance in recent years. This is confirmed by data from Destatis, which records the number of establishments, value and weight of these food preparations.

Data has been collected quarterly since 2019. In the first quarter of 2019, only 29 companies reported to the statistics, but by the first quarter of 2024, this figure had risen to 65 companies. The weight of production destined for sale amounted to 33,310 tonnes in the first quarter of 2024, which was 7% more than in the first quarter of 2023 and the highest figure ever recorded. In 2022, there was a partial decline due to the very high inflation rates. The value of production destined for sale totalled € 169.04 million in the first quarter of 2024, which was 8% more than in the first quarter of 2023 and - as with the volume - also a record result.

In terms of the production value of meat, poultry meat and processed meat as a whole, the market for meat substitutes remains niche. In 2023, the category of meat substitutes accounted for 1.3% of the 'meat market'. This figure was already calculated for 2021 and 2022.

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Editor: European Poultry, Egg and Game Association (EPEGA),

Am Weidendamm 1A, DE 10117 Berlin

Manager: Christine Amling/Sebastian Werren

Tel.: +49 30 590099-562, E-Mail: info@epega.org, Internet: <http://www.epega.org>

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