

Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/2928 laying down specific measures for the control of ASF

(47/01) Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594 lays down specific disease control measures in relation to African swine fever (ASF) to be applied for a limited period of time by the Member States listed in Annexes I and II thereto or having areas listed in those Annexes ('affected Member States'). That Implementing Regulation lays down rules for the listing at Union level of restricted zones I, II and III following outbreaks of African swine fever listed in Annex I and rules for the listing at Union level following an outbreak of that disease in a previously disease-free Member State or a previously disease-free zone listed in Annex II to that Regulation.

Against the background of a new outbreak of African swine fever in kept pigs in Germany and new outbreaks in wild boars in Poland, as well as an improved disease situation in kept pigs in certain areas of Germany, Italy, Croatia, Lithuania and Poland, Delegated Regulation (EU) 2024/2928 has now been adopted. It is intended to take account of the latest developments in the disease situation with regard to ASF in the Union and to proactively address the risks associated with the spread of this disease. To this end, new restricted zones of sufficient size should be established in Germany, Italy, Croatia, Lithuania and Poland and included as restricted zones I, II and III in Annex I to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594 and certain restricted zones I and II should be deleted from that Annex for Germany and Croatia. Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/2928 can be accessed via the link below:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32024R2928>

Current information on highly pathogenic avian influenza

(47/02) In Germany, an outbreak of avian influenza was officially detected in the district of Nordfriesland at the end of November. An organic laying hen farm with 12,000 animals is affected. The corresponding restriction zones were set up and the animals were ordered to be killed.

In the district of Aurich, a suspected case was reported in the municipality of Dornum. A turkey parent stock farm with approx. 8,000 animals is affected. The laboratory responsible has detected the AI virus H5. The result of the FLI on the serotype is still pending. Preparations are being made to cull the live-stock. A corresponding general ruling is also being prepared and will be published on the district's website shortly.

In Bavaria, an HPAI outbreak was reported in the district of Coburg at the end of November. The flock included geese, ducks and chickens, but fewer than 50 animals. The majority of the animals died within a very short time, the rest were culled immediately. Due to the flock size of less than 50 animals, the restricted zones are designated without restrictions, so there are no stabling or movement bans in the area around the affected farm - animals, eggs and poultry meat from the region can be traded without restrictions.

On 25 November 2024, the European Commission published Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2917 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 **Germany** (Bavaria), **France** (Départements Allier, Landes and Morbihan), **Italy** (Emilia-Romagna, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Lombardy and Veneto regions), **Hungary** (Baranya, Bács-Kiskun, Békés, Hajdú-Bihar, Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok and Komárom-Esztergom counties), **Austria** (Lower Austria), **Poland** (Lower Silesia and Great-

er Poland voivodeships) and **Romania** (Tulcea County). The annex to the decision contains the updated territorial outlines of the protection and surveillance zones as well as the provisional duration of the protective measures. Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2917 amends Implementing Decision (EU) 2023/2447 accordingly. Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/2917 is available at the following link: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32024D2917>

Committee for the Common Organisation of the Agricultural Markets (Annex)

(47/03) The most recent meeting of the joint management committee for animal products took place on Thursday, on 21 November. The agenda includes inter alia the market situation in the egg and poultry sector. The presentation on the situation on the EU-poultry meat market was provided by the Commission and is attached and also available on the EPEGA homepage under the following link: http://intranet.opega.org/meta_downloads/96984/EU_market_situation_poultry-November_2024.pdf

Minors infected with H5N1 for the first time

(47/04) The highly pathogenic influenza H5N1 virus is currently spreading in wild birds worldwide. Wild mammals are also becoming infected. In the USA, H5N1 outbreaks in cows have been reported on numerous dairy farms since March 2024. Some employees on affected farms had also contracted the virus.

For the first time in North America (California), there has now been an outbreak in a minor. However, the child only showed mild symptoms and the child's family members were not infected, reported the US health authority CDC.

Previously, an infection with the H5N1 virus had already been detected in a teenager in Canada. The teenager was admitted to hospital in a critical condition on 9 November, according to the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). Virologists explained that the virus had mutated in the adolescent and adapted to the host. It is still unclear how the infections occurred in both cases. The authorities in both countries continue to assess the risk to the general population as low.

AI-supported technologies for poultry farming promise greater animal welfare

(47/05) Artificial intelligence (AI) is being used in more and more areas, including livestock farming. In poultry farming, more efficiency and better animal welfare can be achieved as a result.

At the EuroTier trade fair, which took place in Hanover in November, AI-supported monitoring systems, non-invasive sex determination and automated catching solutions were presented, among other things. For example, a camera-supported system for 24-hour monitoring of broilers in the barn was presented. The system analyses the behaviour of the animals, their activity and their distribution in the barn. The data obtained in this way allows companies to react to changes at an early stage.

A system was also presented that supports non-invasive sex determination in the hatching egg. The system recognises the sex in the egg much earlier than the methods currently available on the market. It works purely optically without damaging the egg shell. Various solutions for catching animals ready for slaughter were also presented. The aim is to increase biosecurity and protection against bird flu, as catching convoys no longer have to enter the barn.

Regulation (EU) 2024/2895 regarding *Listeria monocytogenes* published

(47/06) Regulation (EU) 2024/2895 was published in the Official Journal of the EU on 21 November 2024. The regulation comes into force on 11.12.2024. It applies from 1.7.2026.

The amendments tighten the food safety criterion for *Listeria monocytogenes* to the effect that ‘*Listeria monocytogenes* in 25 g n.o.s.’ applies to Category 1.2 cases (L. m. growth possible) where ‘the food manufacturer cannot demonstrate to the satisfaction of the competent authority that the *Listeria monocytogenes* content does not exceed the limit of 100 CFU/g throughout the shelf life.’

The proposed regulation was viewed very critically by the German food industry during the participation process. In particular, it was criticized that the extension of the scope of the limit value ‘not detectable in 25g’ from the period of direct access by the business operator to the entire shelf life was disproportionate and burdensome. According to practical experience to date, small and medium-sized enterprises in particular are hardly in a position to prove compliance with the limit value of 100 CFU/g until the end of the shelf life ‘to the satisfaction of the competent authority’. Consequently, an alternative proposal for criteria for category 1.2 products was submitted to the Commission as part of the participation procedure in order to avoid the additional burden for food business operators. However, this was not accepted.

It is now feared that the current regulation for category 1.2 foodstuffs will lead to increased recalls within the meaning of Art. 7 of Regulation (EU) No. 2073/2005 and that Art. 14 of Regulation (EC) No.

178/2002 will not be applied. Regulation (EU) 2024/2895 can be accessed here:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32024R2895>

Annex:

- EU market situation for poultry, November 2024

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