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From: Secretary-General of the European Commission, signed by Ms Martine
DEPREZ, Director

date of receipt: 27 March 2026

To: Ms Thérèse BLANCHET, Secretary-General of the Council of the
European Union

No. Cion doc.: C(2026) 902 final

Subject: COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) .../... amending
Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 as regards the infection with
bluetongue virus (serotype 1-24) disease control measures

Delegations will find attached document C(2026) 902 final.

Encl.: C(2026) 902 final



Brussels, 27.3.2026
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COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) .../...

of 27.3.2026

amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 as regards the infection with bluetongue virus (serotype 1-24) disease control measures

(Text with EEA relevance)

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. CONTEXT OF THE DELEGATED ACT

Regulation (EU) 2016/429¹ 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') lays down rules on transmissible animal diseases and rules on animal health requirements for movements within the Union of terrestrial animals.

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687² supplements the rules of the Animal Health Law on disease control measures for certain listed diseases including infection with bluetongue virus (serotype 1-24) ('infection with BTV').

Infection with BTV was until recently a category C disease, as provided for in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1882³ and was, as such, subject to optional eradication programmes to achieve freedom in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/429.

The provisions on granting and maintaining the infection with BTV free status are laid down in Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689⁴ with the exception of the disease control measures in case of suspicion or confirmation of infection with BTV in areas of disease-free status. These disease control measures are laid down in Articles 68 and 69 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687.

Infection with BTV has been re-categorised to a category D disease by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2026/169⁵ amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1882. Implementing Regulation (EU) 2026/169 shall apply as of 15 July 2026. Amongst other implications, such re-categorisation implies that the rules for BTV optional eradication programmes and disease freedom, including the disease control measures in case of suspicion and confirmation of an outbreak in disease-free areas, are no longer relevant, as they only apply to category C diseases.

Therefore, this act will amend Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 accordingly by removing the provisions on disease control measures to be taken in case of suspicion or confirmation of an outbreak in disease-free areas.

¹ OJ L 84, 31.3.2016, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/429/oj>.

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, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2020/687/oj).

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, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2018/1882/oj).

⁴ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689 of 17 December 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards rules for surveillance, eradication programmes, and disease-free status for certain listed and emerging diseases (OJ L 174, 3.6.2020, p. 211, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2020/689/oj).

⁵ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2026/169 of 26 January 2026 amending the Annex to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1882 concerning the categorisation of infection with bluetongue virus (serotypes 1-24) as a listed disease (OJ L, 2026/169, 27.1.2026, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2026/169/oj).

2. CONSULTATIONS PRIOR TO THE ADOPTION OF THE ACT

The Commission consulted with members of the Expert Group on Animal Health (E00930) on the content of the draft Delegated Regulation during meetings that took place on 30 September 2025 and 4 November 2025.

The draft Delegated Regulation was also made available to the European Parliament and the Council. No comments were received from the European Parliament and the Council.

Several other exchanges and meetings took place with stakeholders, as well as with competent authorities of Member States where relevant drivers and elements were discussed regarding the purpose and content of the draft delegated act.

3. LEGAL ELEMENTS OF THE DELEGATED ACT

This Delegated Regulation is to be adopted within the framework of Regulation (EU) 2016/429, and in particular pursuant to Articles 76(5) and 77(2), thereof.

COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) .../...

of 27.3.2026

amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 as regards the infection with bluetongue virus (serotype 1-24) disease control measures

(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 Articles 76(5) and 77(2), thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Regulation (EU) 2016/429 lays down rules for the prevention and control of animal diseases that are transmissible to animals or to humans, including rules on 'listed diseases', defined in Article 4, point (18), of that Regulation. In particular, Title II of Part III of Regulation 2016/429 lays down rules on disease control measures, including rules for the prioritisation and categorisation of listed diseases. In addition, Article 5 of that Regulation provides that disease-specific rules are to apply for the prevention and control of listed diseases, including infection with bluetongue virus (serotype 1-24) (infection with BTV).
- (2) In addition, Article 9(1) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 lays down disease prevention and control rules to be applied to different categories of listed diseases. Pursuant to Article 9(2) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429, Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1882² categorises each listed disease as a category A, B, C, D or E disease, which is subject to the corresponding disease-specific rules referred to in Article 9(1) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429. Infection with BTV was categorised as a category C+D+E disease, as set out in the Annex to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1882. Consequently, it was subject to the disease-specific rules referred to in Article 9(1), points (c), (d) and (e), of Regulation (EU) 2016/429.
- (3) Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687³ was adopted within the framework of Regulation (EU) 2016/429, and supplements the rules on disease awareness, preparedness and control to be applied with regard to the listed diseases referred to in

¹ OJ L 84, 31.3.2016, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/429/oj>.

² 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, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2018/1882/oj).

³ 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, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2020/687/oj).

Article 9(1), points (a), (b) and (c), of Regulation (EU) 2016/429. In particular, Articles 68 and 69 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 lay down rules on the preliminary disease control measures to be applied when a category B or C disease is suspected by the competent authority in Member States or zones that have been granted disease-free status, and the disease control measures to be applied when a category B or C is confirmed. Both of those Articles refer to infection with BTV.

- (4) The Annex to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1882, as recently amended by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2026/169⁴, re-categorised infection with BTV as a category D+E disease, instead of as a category C+D+E disease. As a consequence of such re-categorisation, the rules, laid down in Articles 68 point (c) and 69 point (c) of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687, relating to infection with BTV, including the disease control measures in the case of the suspicion or the confirmation of an outbreak of infection with BTV in a disease-free zone are no longer relevant, as they only apply to a category C disease. Therefore, the references to infection with BTV should be deleted from Articles 68, point (c), and 69, point (c) of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687. Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 should, therefore, be amended accordingly.
- (5) As the amendments made to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1882 by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2026/169 concerning the new categorisation of infection with BTV as a category D+E disease apply from 15 July 2026, this Regulation should also apply from that date.
- (6) Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 should, therefore, be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 is amended as follows:

1. in Article 68, point (c) is deleted;
2. in Article 69, point (c) is deleted.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the seventh day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

It shall apply from 15 July 2026.

⁴ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2026/169 of 26 January 2026 amending the Annex to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1882 concerning the categorisation of infection with bluetongue virus (serotypes 1-24) as a listed disease (OJ L, 2026/169, 27.1.2026, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2026/169/oj).

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 27.3.2026

For the Commission
The President
Ursula VON DER LEYEN