



Brussels, 8.7.2015
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 8.7.2015

**on the adoption of a financing decision regarding the Union contribution to emergency
measures to combat sheep pox in Greece in 2013 and 2014**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 652/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 laying down provisions for the management of expenditure relating to the food chain, animal health and animal welfare, and relating to plant health and plant reproductive material, amending Council Directives 98/56/EC, 2000/29/EC and 2008/90/EC, Regulations (EC) No 178/2002, (EC) No 882/2004 and (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Council Decisions 66/399/EEC, 76/894/EEC and 2009/470/EC¹, and in particular Articles 6 and 36(4) thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002², and in particular Article 84(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Sheep pox is an infectious viral disease of sheep and goats with a severe impact on the profitability of ovine farming causing disturbance to trade within the Union and export to third countries.
- (2) In the event of an occurrence of sheep pox, there is a risk that the disease agent spreads to other ovine holdings within that Member State and also to other Member States and to third countries through trade in live animals or their products.
- (3) Council Directive 92/119/EEC³ introducing Union measures for the control of sheep pox sets out measures which, in the event of an occurrence of the disease, have to be immediately implemented by Member States, as a matter of urgency to prevent further spread of the virus and to eradicate the disease.
- (4) In accordance with Article 84 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, the commitment of expenditure from the Union budget shall be preceded by a financing decision setting out the essential elements of the action involving expenditure and adopted by the institution or the authorities to which powers have been delegated by

¹ OJ L 189, 27.6.2014, p. 1.

² OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

³ Council Directive 92/119/EEC of 17 December 1992 introducing Community measures for the control of certain animal diseases and specific measures relating to swine vesicular disease (OJ L 62, 15.3.1993, p. 69).

the institution. Article 94 of the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012⁴ establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.

- (5) Pursuant to Article 6 of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014, grants may be awarded to Member States in respect of the measures taken as a result of the confirmation that one of the animal diseases listed pursuant to Article 7 of that Regulation has occurred, provided that the measures have been applied immediately and the applicable provisions laid down in the relevant Union law have been complied with. Article 3(2) of that Regulation lays down that when grants are awarded to the competent authorities of the Member States, these competent authorities shall be considered to be identified beneficiaries within the meaning of Article 128(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012. Such grants may be awarded without a call for proposals.
- (6) According to Article 5(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014, the maximum rate of the Union financial contribution may be increased to 75 % of the eligible costs in respect of Member States whose gross national income per inhabitant based on the latest Eurostat data is less than 90 % of the Union average.
- (7) Outbreaks of sheep pox occurred in Greece in 2013 and 2014 and were notified on the 12 August 2013. The Member State took measures in accordance with Council Directive 92/119/EEC to eradicate the disease.
- (8) Based on the Member State first estimation, Commission Implementing Decision No 2014/217/EU of 11 April 2014⁵, under Council Decision 2009/470/EC⁶, granted a maximum financial contribution by the Union of EUR 700 000 to Greece towards emergency measures to combat sheep pox in this Member State in 2013 and 2014.
- (9) On 6 March 2015, the Member State presented a revised estimation of costs, based on expenditure incurred until 31 december 2014.
- (10) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
Objectives and expected results

1. The objectives of the actions implemented by Greece are to contain the spread of sheep pox by application of surveillance and early response measures by the competent authorities, in the perspective of the eradication of the disease.
2. The results expected by the Commission are to support the proper implementation of the control measures against sheep pox in the referred Member State.

⁴ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1).

⁵ Commission Implementing Decision No 2014/217/EU of 11 April 2014 on a financial contribution from the Union towards emergency measures to combat sheep pox in Bulgaria in 2013 and in Greece in 2013 and 2014.

⁶ Council Decision 2009/470/EC of 25 May 2009 on expenditure in the veterinary field (OJ L 155, 18.6.2009, p. 30).

Article 2
Financial contribution by the Union

1. A maximum financial contribution by the Union of EUR 3 765 000 for emergency measures to combat sheep pox in Greece shall be granted to this Member State for the costs listed in paragraph 3 for the period from 30 June 2014 to 31 December 2014.

It shall be financed from the following line of the general budget of the European Union for 2015: budget line 17.04.04: EUR 27 113 181,75.

2. This Decision constitutes a financing decision in the meaning of Article 84 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.
3. The financial contribution by the Union shall be at the rate of 75% of the following eligible costs incurred:
 - (a) Costs of compensation, to owners for the value of their animals slaughtered or culled;
 - (b) Costs of slaughtering and culling the animals and related transport;
 - (c) Costs of compensation to owners for the value of their destroyed products of animal origin;
 - (d) Costs of cleaning, desinsectisation and disinfection of holdings and equipment, based on the epidemiology and characteristics of the pathogen;
 - (e) Costs for the transport and the destruction of the contaminated feeding stuffs and, where it cannot be disinfected, contaminated equipment;
 - (f) Costs of purchase, storage, administration or distribution of vaccines and baits as well as the costs of inoculation itself, if the Commission decides or authorises such actions: (none);
 - (g) Costs of transport and disposal of carcasses;
 - (h) Other essential costs, in accordance with Article 8(1)(h) of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014: (none).
4. The final amount of the financial contribution of the Union shall be fixed after assessment by the Commission of the payment application submitted by Greece.

Article 3
Award criteria

The award criteria are:

- compliance with the requirements of Union veterinary legislation,
- relevance of the planned activities in view of the eradication of the disease.

Article 4
Flexibility clause

Cumulated changes not exceeding 20% of the maximum contribution set in Article 1 of this Decision shall not be considered to be substantial within the meaning of Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, where those changes do not significantly affect the nature and the objective of the action. The increase of the maximum contribution set in Article 2 of this Decision shall not exceed 20%.

The authorising officer responsible may adopt the changes referred to in the first paragraph in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Article 5

Amendments to Implementing Decision 2014/217/EU

In Article 1 of Implementing Decision 2014/217/EU, paragraph 2 is replaced by the following:

- “2. A financial contribution from the Union up to a maximum of 1 341 000 shall be granted to Greece towards the costs incurred by this Member State in taking measures pursuant to Article 3(2) and (6) of Decision 2009/470/EC to combat sheep pox from 1 January 2013 to 29 June 2014”.

Done at Brussels, 8.7.2015

For the Commission

Vytenis ANDRIUKAITIS

Member of the Commission