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⁽¹⁾ Text with EEA relevance

EN

Acts whose titles are printed in light type are those relating to day-to-day management of agricultural matters, and are generally valid for a limited period.

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II

(Non-legislative acts)

REGULATIONS

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2016/38

of 14 January 2016

amending Regulation (EC) No 555/2008 as regards the maximum ceiling for advances for support for investments and innovation in the context of the national support programmes in the wine sector

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 922/72, (EEC) No 234/79, (EC) No 1037/2001 and (EC) No 1234/2007 ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 54(b) and (f) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Articles 19(2) and 20c(2) of Commission Regulation (EC) No 555/2008 ⁽²⁾ provide for the financial management of the support granted for investments and innovation in the context of the national support programmes in the wine sector. Those provisions set the maximum ceiling for advance payments at 50 % for the financial years 2013, 2014 and 2015 as regards the investment measure and for the financial years 2014 and 2015 as regards the innovation measure. This temporary increase compared to the normal ceiling of 20 % should continue to apply in 2016 in order to ease the implementation of those measures against the background of the difficult financial situation that still prevails in many Member States.
- (2) Regulation (EC) No 555/2008 should therefore be amended accordingly.
- (3) In order to ensure the continuity of the conditions provided for the investment and innovation measures as regards advances and to exclude any discrimination among beneficiaries, this Regulation should apply from 1 January 2016.
- (4) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee for the Common Organisation of Agricultural Markets,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Regulation (EC) No 555/2008 is amended as follows:

- (1) In Article 19(2), the second subparagraph is replaced by the following:

‘The amount of the advances shall not exceed 20 % of the public aid related to the investment, and its payment shall be subject to the establishment of a bank guarantee or an equivalent guarantee corresponding to 110 % of the

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 671.

⁽²⁾ Commission Regulation (EC) No 555/2008 of 27 June 2008 laying down detailed rules for implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 479/2008 on the common organisation of the market in wine as regards support programmes, trade with third countries, production potential and on controls in the wine sector (OJ L 170, 30.6.2008, p. 1).

amount of the advance. However, in the case of investments for which the individual decision to grant support is taken in the financial years 2013, 2014, 2015 or 2016, the amount of the advances may be increased to up to 50 % of the public aid related to the investment concerned. For the purposes of Article 23 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 907/2014 (*) the obligation shall be to spend the total amount advanced in the implementation of the operation concerned two years after its payment.

(*) Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 907/2014 of 11 March 2014 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to paying agencies and other bodies, financial management, clearance of accounts, securities and use of euro (OJ L 255, 28.8.2014, p. 18).'

(2) In Article 20c(2), the second subparagraph is replaced by the following:

'The amount of the advances shall not exceed 20 % of the public aid related to the investment in innovation, and its payment shall be subject to the establishment of a bank guarantee or an equivalent guarantee corresponding to 110 % of the amount of the advance. However, in the case of investments in innovation for which the individual decision to grant support is taken in the financial years 2014, 2015 or 2016, the amount of the advances may be increased to up to 50 % of the public aid related to the investment concerned. For the purposes of Article 23 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 907/2014 the obligation shall be to spend the total amount advanced in the implementation of the operation concerned two years after its payment.'

Article 2

Entry into force and application

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

It shall apply from 1 January 2016.

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

Done at Brussels, 14 January 2016.

For the Commission

The President

Jean-Claude JUNCKER

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2016/39**of 14 January 2016****amending Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 798/2008 as regards the entry for Mexico in the list of third countries, territories, zones or compartments from which certain poultry commodities may be imported into or transit through the Union in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza****(Text with EEA relevance)**

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Council Directive 2002/99/EC of 16 December 2002 laying down the animal health rules governing the production, processing, distribution and introduction of products of animal origin for human consumption ⁽¹⁾, and in particular the introductory phrase of Article 8, the first subparagraph of point 1 of Article 8, point 4 of Article 8 and Article 9(4)(c) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Commission Regulation (EC) No 798/2008 ⁽²⁾ lays down veterinary certification requirements for imports into and transit, including storage during transit, through the Union of poultry and poultry products ('the commodities'). It provides that the commodities may only be imported into and transit through the Union from the third countries, territories, zones or compartments listed in columns 1 and 3 of the table in Part 1 of Annex I thereto.
- (2) Regulation (EC) No 798/2008 also lays down the conditions for a third country, territory, zone or compartment to be considered as free from highly pathogenic avian influenza ('HPAI').
- (3) Mexico is listed in Part 1 of Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 798/2008 as a third country from which imports into and transit through the Union of specified pathogen-free eggs ('SPF-eggs') and egg products are authorised.
- (4) Following HPAI outbreaks of the subtype H7N3 on the Mexican territory in January 2013, imports into or transit through the Union of egg products were prohibited by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 437/2013 ⁽³⁾.
- (5) The latest HPAI outbreak of that disease was confirmed at the beginning of March 2015.
- (6) On 8 May 2015, Mexico has submitted information on its HPAI situation. Mexico applied a stamping out policy and has carried surveillance for avian influenza. It did not detect any further virus circulation.
- (7) That information has been evaluated by the Commission. On the basis of that evaluation and the guarantees provided by Mexico, the Commission services concluded that the imports into or transit through the Union of egg products should again be authorised from the whole territory of Mexico.
- (8) The entry for Mexico in Part 1 of Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 798/2008 should therefore be amended accordingly.
- (9) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed,

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 18, 23.1.2003, p. 11.

⁽²⁾ Commission Regulation (EC) No 798/2008 of 8 August 2008 laying down a list of third countries, territories, zones or compartments from which poultry and poultry products may be imported into and transit through the Community and the veterinary certification requirements (OJ L 226, 23.8.2008, p. 1).

⁽³⁾ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 437/2013 of 8 May 2013 amending Regulation (EC) No 798/2008 as regards the entry for Mexico in the list of third countries, territories, zones or compartments from which certain commodities may be imported into or transit through the Union (OJ L 129, 14.5.2013, p. 25).

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Part 1 of Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 798/2008 is amended in accordance with the Annex to this Regulation.

Article 2

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

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

Done at Brussels, 14 January 2016.

For the Commission

The President

Jean-Claude JUNKER

ANNEX

In Part 1 of Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 798/2008, the entry for Mexico is replaced by the following:

ISO code and name of third country or territory	Code of third country, territory, zone or compartment	Description of third country, territory, zone or compartment	Veterinary certificate		Specific conditions	Specific conditions		Avian influenza surveillance status	Avian influenza vaccination status	Salmonella control status
			Model(s)	Additional guarantees		Closing date ⁽¹⁾	Opening date ⁽²⁾			
1	2	3	4	5	6	6A	6B	7	8	9
'MX-Mexico	MX-0	Whole country	SPF							
			EP				5 February 2016'			

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2016/40**of 15 January 2016****establishing the standard import values for determining the entry price of certain fruit and vegetables**

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 922/72, (EEC) No 234/79, (EC) No 1037/2001 and (EC) No 1234/2007 ⁽¹⁾,

Having regard to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 of 7 June 2011 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 in respect of the fruit and vegetables and processed fruit and vegetables sectors ⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 136(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 lays down, pursuant to the outcome of the Uruguay Round multilateral trade negotiations, the criteria whereby the Commission fixes the standard values for imports from third countries, in respect of the products and periods stipulated in Annex XVI, Part A thereto.
- (2) The standard import value is calculated each working day, in accordance with Article 136(1) of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011, taking into account variable daily data. Therefore this Regulation should enter into force on the day of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

The standard import values referred to in Article 136 of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 are fixed in the Annex to this Regulation.

Article 2

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

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

Done at Brussels, 15 January 2016.

*For the Commission,
On behalf of the President,*

Jerzy PLEWA
Director-General for Agriculture and Rural Development

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 671.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 157, 15.6.2011, p. 1.

ANNEX

Standard import values for determining the entry price of certain fruit and vegetables

(EUR/100 kg)		
CN code	Third country code ⁽¹⁾	Standard import value
0702 00 00	EG	120,0
	MA	75,7
	TN	84,8
	TR	104,8
	ZZ	96,3
0707 00 05	MA	87,3
	TR	154,9
	ZZ	121,1
0709 93 10	MA	62,4
	TR	154,1
	ZZ	108,3
0805 10 20	EG	47,4
	MA	67,5
	TR	72,9
	ZA	74,1
	ZW	44,1
	ZZ	61,2
0805 20 10	IL	163,3
	MA	85,6
	ZZ	124,5
0805 20 30, 0805 20 50, 0805 20 70, 0805 20 90	IL	113,0
	JM	147,2
	MA	79,5
	TR	98,3
	ZZ	109,5
	MA	92,2
0805 50 10	TR	93,9
	ZZ	93,1
0808 10 80	CA	156,8
	CL	83,8
	US	159,9
	ZZ	133,5
	CN	75,5
0808 30 90	TR	132,0
	ZZ	103,8

⁽¹⁾ Nomenclature of countries laid down by Commission Regulation (EU) No 1106/2012 of 27 November 2012 implementing Regulation (EC) No 471/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics relating to external trade with non-member countries, as regards the update of the nomenclature of countries and territories (OJ L 328, 28.11.2012, p. 7). Code 'ZZ' stands for 'of other origin'.

DECISIONS

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION (EU) 2016/41

of 14 January 2016

amending Annex II to Decision 2007/777/EC as regards the entry for Mexico in the list of third countries or parts thereof from which the introduction of meat products and treated stomachs, bladders and intestines into the Union is authorised in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza

(notified under document C(2016) 41)

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Council Directive 2002/99/EC of 16 December 2002 laying down the animal health rules governing the production, processing, distribution and introduction of products of animal origin for human consumption ⁽¹⁾ and in particular the introductory phrase of Article 8, the first subparagraph of point 1 of Article 8, point 4 of Article 8 and Article 9(4)(c) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Commission Decision 2007/777/EC ⁽²⁾ lays down animal and public health rules for imports into the Union and the transit and storage in the Union of consignments of meat products and treated stomachs, bladders and intestines ('the commodities').
- (2) Part 2 of Annex II to Decision 2007/777/EC set out a list of third countries or parts thereof from which the introduction into the Union of the commodities is authorised, provided that the commodities have undergone the relevant treatment, as set out in Part 4 of that Annex. Part 4 of Annex II to Decision 2007/777/EC sets out non-specific treatment 'A' and specific treatments 'B' to 'F', listed in descending order of severity.
- (3) Mexico is listed in Part 2 of Annex II to Decision 2007/777/EC as a third country from which the introduction into the Union of commodities derived from poultry, farmed feathered game, ratites and wild game birds is authorised.
- (4) Following highly pathogenic avian influenza ('HPAI') outbreaks of the subtype H7N3 on the Mexican territory in January 2013, the entry for that third country in the list set out in Part 2 of Annex II to Decision 2007/777/EC was amended by Commission Implementing Decision 2013/217/EU ⁽³⁾ in order to specify that commodities derived from poultry, farmed feathered game, ratites and wild game birds may only be authorised for introduction into the Union from Mexico after being subjected to specific treatment 'B' as set out in Part 4 of Annex II to Decision 2007/777/EC.
- (5) On 8 May 2015, Mexico has submitted information on its HPAI situation. Mexico applied a stamping out policy and has carried surveillance for avian influenza. It did not detect any further virus circulation.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 18, 23.1.2003, p. 11.

⁽²⁾ Commission Decision 2007/777/EC of 29 November 2007 laying down the animal and public health conditions and model certificates for imports of certain meat products and treated stomachs, bladders and intestines for human consumption from third countries and repealing Decision 2005/432/EC (OJ L 312, 30.11.2007, p. 49).

⁽³⁾ Commission Implementing Decision 2013/217/EU of 8 May 2013 amending Decision 2007/777/EC as regards the entry for Mexico in the list of third countries or parts thereof from which the introduction of meat products and treated stomachs, bladders and intestines into the Union is authorised (OJ L 129, 14.5.2013, p. 38).

- (6) That information has been evaluated by the Commission. On the basis of that evaluation, as well as the guarantees provided by Mexico, it is appropriate to amend the entry for Mexico in the list set out in Part 2 of Annex II to Decision 2007/777/EC, as regards the prescribed specific treatment for commodities derived from poultry, farmed feathered game, ratites and wild game birds. In order to take into account the favourable disease situation in Mexico, the abovementioned commodities may be authorised for introduction into the Union after being subjected to the specific treatment 'D'.
- (7) Part 2 of Annex II to Decision 2007/777/EC should therefore be amended accordingly.
- (8) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Part 2 of Annex II to Decision 2007/777/EC is amended in accordance with the Annex to this Decision.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 14 January 2016.

For the Commission
Vytenis ANDRIUKAITIS
Member of the Commission

ANNEX

In Part 2 of Annex II to Decision 2007/777/EC, the entry for Mexico is replaced by the following:

'MX	Mexico	A	D	D	A	D	D	A	D	D	XXX	A	D	XXX'
-----	--------	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	-----	---	---	------

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION (EU) 2016/42**of 15 January 2016****amending the Annex to Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/2460 concerning certain protective measures in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H5 in France***(notified under document C(2016) 209)***(Only the French text is authentic)****(Text with EEA relevance)**

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Council Directive 89/662/EEC of 11 December 1989 concerning veterinary checks in intra-Community trade with a view to the completion of the internal market ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 9(4) thereof,

Having regard to Council Directive 90/425/EEC of 26 June 1990 concerning veterinary and zootechnical checks applicable in intra-Community trade in certain live animals and products with a view to the completion of the internal market ⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 10(4) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Council Directive 2005/94/EC ⁽³⁾ sets out certain preventive measures relating to the surveillance and the early detection of avian influenza and the minimum control measures to be applied in the event of an outbreak of that disease in poultry or other captive birds. Article 16 of that Directive provides for the establishment of protection, surveillance and further restricted zones in the event of an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI).
- (2) In 2015, France notified the Commission of outbreaks of HPAI of subtype H5 in holdings on its territory where poultry are kept and it immediately took the minimum control measures required pursuant to Directive 2005/94/EC, including the establishment of protection, surveillance and a further restricted zone in accordance with that Directive.
- (3) In addition, Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/2460 ⁽⁴⁾ was adopted to take account of the spread of HPAI in France and the establishment by the competent authority of that Member State of a large further restricted zone around the protection and surveillance zones. That further restricted zone comprises several departments or parts thereof in the south-west of that Member State. Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/2460 provides, inter alia, that the further restricted zone established by France in accordance with Directive 2005/94/EC is to include at least the areas listed as the further restricted zone in the Annex to that Implementing Decision.
- (4) France has now reported further HPAI outbreaks located outside the areas listed as the further restricted zone in the Annex to Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/2460. Due to the development of the epidemiological situation and the risk of further disease spread, France is enlarging the further restricted zone around the established protection and surveillance zones.
- (5) It is therefore necessary to amend the Annex to Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/2460 in order to take account of the enlargement of the further restricted zone by France.
- (6) The Commission has examined the control measures taken by France and it is satisfied that the borders of the further restricted zone, established by the competent authority of that Member State, in accordance with Article 16(4) of Directive 2005/94/EC, are at a sufficient distance to the actual holdings where the HPAI outbreaks have been confirmed.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 395, 30.12.1989, p. 13.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 224, 18.8.1990, p. 29.

⁽³⁾ Council Directive 2005/94/EC of 20 December 2005 on Community measures for the control of avian influenza and repealing Directive 92/40/EEC (OJ L 10, 14.1.2006, p. 16).

⁽⁴⁾ Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/2460 of 23 December 2015 concerning certain protective measures in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H5 in France (OJ L 339, 24.12.2015, p. 52).

- (7) In order to prevent any unnecessary disturbance to trade within the Union and to avoid unjustified barriers to trade being imposed by third countries, it is necessary to rapidly describe the enlarged further restricted zone established by France at Union level.
- (8) Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/2460 should therefore be amended accordingly.
- (9) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Annex to Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/2460 is replaced by the text set out in the Annex to this Decision.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the French Republic.

Done at Brussels, 15 January 2016.

For the Commission
Vytenis ANDRIUKAITIS
Member of the Commission

ANNEX

‘ANNEX

Further restricted zone as referred to in Article 2(1):

ISO Country Code	Member State	Name (Department number)		
FR	France	Areas comprising the departments of:		
		DORDOGNE (24) GERS (32) GIRONDE (33) HAUTE-VIENNE (87) HAUTES-PYRÉNÉES (65) LANDES (40) LOT-ET-GARONNE (47) PYRÉNÉES-ATLANTIQUES (64) LOT (46) HAUTE-GARONNE (31)		
		Areas comprising parts of the departments of:		
		CHARENTE (16) the commune of:	16254	PALLUAUD
		CORREZE (19) the communes of:	19015 19030 19047 19066 19077 19107 19120 19124 19161 19182 19191 19195 19229 19239 19289 19007 19012 19019 19026 19029 19044 19050 19067 19116 19170 19260 19280	AYEN BRIGNAC-LA-PLAINE CHARTRIER-FERRIÈRE CUBLAC ESTIVALS LARCHÉ LOUIGNAC MANSAC PERPEZAC-LE-BLANC SAINT-AULAIRE SAINT-CERNIN-DE-LARCHÉ SAINT-CYPRIEN SAINT-PANTALÉON-DE-LARCHÉ SAINT-ROBERT YSSANDON ALTILLAC ASTAILLAC BEAULIEU-SUR-DORDOGNE BILHAC BRANCEILLES LA-CHAPELLE-AUX-SAINTS CHAUFFOUR-SUR-VELL CUREMONTE LIOURDRES QUEYSSAC-LES-VIGNES SIONIAC VEGENNES'

ACTS ADOPTED BY BODIES CREATED BY INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

DECISION No 1/2015 OF THE EU-REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

of 15 December 2015

adopting its Rules of Procedure [2016/43]

THE EU-REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE,

Having regard to the Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Moldova, of the other part ⁽¹⁾ ('the Agreement'), and in particular Article 306 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In accordance with Article 464 of the Agreement, parts of the Agreement have been applied provisionally as of 1 September 2014.
- (2) Pursuant to Article 306 of the Agreement, the Geographical Indications Sub-Committee ('GI Sub-Committee') is to monitor the development of the Agreement in the field of geographical indications and is to serve as a forum for cooperation and dialogue on geographical indications.
- (3) Pursuant to Article 306(3) of the Agreement, the GI Sub-Committee is to determine its own rules of procedure,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Rules of Procedure for the GI Sub-Committee, as set out in the Annex, are hereby adopted.

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

Done at Chişinău, 15 December 2015.

For the GI Sub-Committee

The Chair

Octavian APOSTOL

Secretaries

Liliana VIERU

Bruno de BONI

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 260, 30.8.2014, p. 4.

ANNEX

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE EU-REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE*Article 1***General provisions**

1. The Geographical Indications Sub-Committee ('GI Sub-Committee'), established in accordance with Article 306 of the Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Moldova, of the other part ('the Agreement'), shall assist the Association Committee in Trade configuration, as set out in Article 438(4) of the Agreement ('the Association Committee in Trade configuration'), in the performance of its functions.
2. The GI Sub-Committee shall perform its functions set out in Article 306 of the Agreement.
3. The GI Sub-Committee shall be composed of representatives of the European Commission and of the Republic of Moldova, responsible for matters relating to geographical indications.
4. The Parties shall each appoint a Head of Delegation who shall be the contact person for all matters relating to the GI Sub-Committee.
5. The Heads of Delegation shall act as Chair of the GI Sub-Committee in accordance with Article 2.
6. Each Head of Delegation may delegate all or any of the functions of Head of Delegation to a nominated deputy, in which case all references hereafter to the Head of Delegation apply equally to the nominated deputy.
7. The Parties in these Rules of Procedure shall be defined as provided for in Article 461 of the Agreement.

*Article 2***Chairmanship**

The Parties shall hold the chairmanship of the GI Sub-Committee, alternately, for a period of 12 months. The first period shall begin on the date of the first Association Council meeting and end on 31 December of the same year.

*Article 3***Meetings**

1. Save as otherwise agreed by the Parties, the GI Sub-Committee shall meet at the request of either Party, alternately in the Union and in the Republic of Moldova, and in any case no later than 90 calendar days from the request.
2. Each meeting of the GI Sub-Committee shall be convened by its Chair at a place and on a date agreed by the Parties. The notice of convening the meeting shall be issued by the Chair of the GI Sub-Committee no later than 28 calendar days prior to the start of the meeting, unless the Parties agree otherwise.
3. Whenever possible, the regular meeting of the GI Sub-Committee shall be convened in due time in advance of the regular meeting of the Association Committee in Trade configuration.
4. By way of exception, the meetings of the GI Sub-Committee may be held by any technological means agreed by the Parties, including video-conference.

*Article 4***Delegations**

Before each meeting, the Parties shall be informed, by the Secretariat of the GI Sub-Committee, of the intended composition of the delegation of each Party attending the meeting.

*Article 5***Secretariat**

1. An official of the European Commission and an official of the Republic of Moldova shall act jointly as Secretaries of the GI Sub-Committee, as appointed by the Heads of Delegations, and shall execute secretarial tasks in a joint manner, in a spirit of mutual trust and cooperation.
2. The Secretariat of the Association Committee in Trade configuration shall be informed of any decisions, reports and other agreed actions of the GI Sub-Committee.

*Article 6***Correspondence**

1. Correspondence addressed to the GI Sub-Committee shall be directed to the Secretary of either Party, who in turn will inform the other Secretary.
2. The Secretariat of the GI Sub-Committee shall ensure that correspondence addressed to the GI Sub-Committee is forwarded to the Chair of the GI Sub-Committee and circulated, where appropriate, as documents referred to in Article 7.
3. Correspondence from the Chair shall be sent to the Parties by the Secretariat on behalf of the Chair. Such correspondence shall be circulated, where appropriate, as provided for in Article 7.

*Article 7***Documents**

1. Documents shall be circulated by the Secretaries of the GI Sub-Committee.
2. A Party shall transmit its documents to its Secretary. The Secretary shall transmit those documents to the Secretary of the other Party.
3. The Secretary of the Union shall circulate the documents to the relevant representatives of the Union and shall systematically copy the Secretary of the Republic of Moldova and the Secretaries of the Association Committee in Trade configuration in such correspondence.
4. The Secretary of the Republic of Moldova shall circulate the documents to the relevant representatives of the Republic of Moldova and shall systematically copy the Secretary of the Union and the Secretaries of the Association Committee in Trade configuration in such correspondence.

*Article 8***Confidentiality**

Unless otherwise decided by the Parties, the meetings of the GI Sub-Committee shall not be public. When a Party submits information designated as confidential to the GI Sub-Committee, the other Party shall treat that information as such.

*Article 9***Agendas for the meetings**

1. A provisional agenda for each meeting as well as draft operational conclusions as provided for in Article 10 shall be drawn up by the Secretariat of the GI Sub-Committee on the basis of proposals made by the Parties. The provisional agenda shall include items in respect of which the Secretariat has received a request for inclusion in the agenda by a Party, supported by relevant documents, no later than 21 calendar days before the date of the meeting.
2. The provisional agenda, together with the relevant documents, shall be circulated as provided for in Article 7 no later than 15 calendar days before the beginning of the meeting.
3. The agenda shall be adopted by the Chair and the other Head of Delegation at the beginning of each meeting. Items other than those appearing on the provisional agenda may be placed on the agenda if the Parties so agree.
4. The Chair of the GI Sub-Committee may, upon agreement of the other Party, invite representatives of other bodies of the Parties or independent experts in a subject-area on an *ad-hoc* basis to attend its meetings in order to provide information on specific subjects. The Parties shall ensure that those observers or experts respect any confidentiality requirements.
5. The Chair of the GI Sub-Committee may reduce the time limits specified in paragraphs 1 and 2, in consultation with the Parties, in order to take account of special circumstances.

*Article 10***Minutes and operational conclusions**

1. Draft minutes of each meeting shall be drawn up jointly by the Secretaries of the GI Sub-Committee.
2. The minutes shall, as a general rule, include in respect of each item on the agenda:
 - (a) a list of participants in the meeting, a list of officials accompanying them and a list of any observers or experts who attended the meeting;
 - (b) documentation submitted to the GI Sub-Committee;
 - (c) statements which the GI Sub-Committee has asked to be entered in the minutes; and
 - (d) operational conclusions of the meeting, if necessary, as provided for in paragraph 4.
3. The draft minutes shall be submitted to the GI Sub-Committee for approval. They shall be approved within 28 calendar days after each GI Sub-Committee meeting. A copy shall be sent to each of the addressees referred to in Article 7.
4. Draft operational conclusions of each meeting shall be drawn up by the Secretary of the GI Sub-Committee of the Party holding the chairmanship of the GI Sub-Committee, and circulated to the Parties together with the agenda, no later than 15 calendar days before the beginning of the meeting. That draft shall be updated as the meeting proceeds so that at the end of the meeting, unless agreed otherwise by the Parties, the GI Sub-Committee adopts the operational conclusions, reflecting the follow-up actions agreed by the Parties. Once agreed, the operational conclusions shall be attached to the minutes and their implementation shall be reviewed during any subsequent meeting of the GI Sub-Committee. To that end the GI Sub-Committee shall adopt a template, allowing for each action to be tracked against a specific deadline.

*Article 11***Decisions**

1. The GI Sub-Committee shall have the power to adopt decisions in the cases provided for in Article 306(4) of the Agreement. Those decisions shall be adopted by consensus between the Parties after completion of the respective internal procedures for their adoption. They shall be binding upon the Parties, which shall take appropriate measures to implement them.

2. Each decision shall be signed by the Chair of the GI Sub-Committee and authenticated by the Secretaries of the GI Sub-Committee. Without prejudice to paragraph 4, the Chair shall sign those documents during the meeting in which the relevant decision is adopted.
3. The GI Sub-Committee may take decisions or adopt reports by written procedure, after completion of the respective internal procedures for their adoption, if the Parties so agree. The written procedure shall consist of an exchange of notes between the Secretaries, acting in agreement with the Parties. For that purpose, the text of the proposal shall be circulated pursuant to Article 7, with a time limit of no less than 21 calendar days within which any reservations or amendments shall be made known. The Chair may reduce that time limit, in consultation with the Parties, in order to take account of special circumstances. Once the text is agreed, the decision or the report shall be signed by the Chair and authenticated by the Secretaries.
4. The acts of the GI Sub-Committee shall be entitled 'Decision' or 'Report' respectively. Each decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption unless the decision provides otherwise.
5. The decisions shall be circulated to the Parties.
6. Each Party may decide on the publication of the decisions of the GI Sub-Committee in its respective official publication.

Article 12

Reports

The GI Sub-Committee shall report to the Association Committee in Trade configuration on its activities at each regular meeting of the latter.

Article 13

Languages

1. The working languages of the GI Sub-Committee shall be English and Romanian.
2. Unless otherwise decided, the GI Sub-Committee shall base its deliberations on documentation prepared in those languages.

Article 14

Expenses

1. Each Party shall meet any expenses it incurs as a result of participating in the meetings of the GI Sub-Committee, both with regard to staff, travel and subsistence expenditure and with regards to postal and telecommunications expenditure.
2. Expenditure in connection with the organisation of meetings and reproduction of documents shall be borne by the Party hosting the meeting.
3. Expenditure in connection with interpreting at meetings and translation of documents into or from English and Romanian as referred to in Article 13(1) shall be borne by the Party hosting the meeting.

Interpreting and translation into or from other languages shall be borne directly by the requesting Party.

*Article 15***Amendment of Rules of Procedure**

These Rules of Procedure may be amended by a decision of the GI Sub-Committee in accordance with Article 306(3) of the Agreement.

