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⁽¹⁾ Text with EEA relevance.

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II

(Non-legislative acts)

REGULATIONS

COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2023/1505

of 20 July 2023

implementing Article 2(3) of Regulation (EC) No 2580/2001 on specific restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities with a view to combating terrorism, and repealing Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/420

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

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

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 2580/2001 of 27 December 2001 on specific restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities with a view to combating terrorism ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 2(3) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy,

Whereas:

- (1) On 24 February 2023, the Council adopted Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/420 ⁽²⁾, establishing an updated list of persons, groups and entities to which Regulation (EC) No 2580/2001 applies (the 'list').
- (2) The Council has provided, where practically possible, all the persons, groups and entities with statements of reasons explaining why they were entered into the list.
- (3) By way of a notice published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*, the Council informed the persons, groups and entities on the list that it had decided to keep them thereon. The Council also informed those persons, groups and entities that it was possible to request a statement of the Council's reasons for entering them into the list where such a statement had not already been communicated to them.
- (4) The Council has reviewed the list as required by Article 2(3) of Regulation (EC) No 2580/2001. When carrying out that review, the Council took into account the observations submitted to it by those concerned as well as the updated information received from the competent national authorities on the status of listed individuals and entities at national level.
- (5) The Council has verified that competent authorities, as referred to in Article 1(4) of Council Common Position 2001/931/CFSP ⁽³⁾, have taken decisions with regard to all persons, groups and entities on the list to the effect that they have been involved in terrorist acts within the meaning of Article 1(2) and (3) of Common

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 344, 28.12.2001, p. 70.

⁽²⁾ Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/420 of 24 February 2023 implementing Article 2(3) of Regulation (EC) No 2580/2001 on specific restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities with a view to combating terrorism, and repealing Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1230 (OJ L 61, 27.2.2023, p. 37).

⁽³⁾ Council Common Position 2001/931/CFSP of 27 December 2001 on the application of specific measures to combat terrorism (OJ L 344, 28.12.2001, p. 93).

Position 2001/931/CFSP. The Council has also concluded that the persons, groups and entities to which Articles 72, 3 and 4 of Common Position 2001/931/CFSP apply should continue to be subject to the specific restrictive measures provided for in Regulation (EC) No 2580/2001.

- (6) The list should be updated accordingly, and Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/420 should be repealed,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

The list provided for in Article 2(3) of Regulation (EC) No 2580/2001 is set out in the Annex to this Regulation.

Article 2

Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/420 is hereby repealed.

Article 3

This Regulation shall enter into force on the 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, 20 July 2023.

For the Council

The President

J. BORRELL FONTELLES

ANNEX

LIST OF PERSONS, GROUPS AND ENTITIES REFERRED TO IN ARTICLE 1

I. PERSONS

1. ABDOLLAHI Hamed (a.k.a. Mustafa Abdullahi), born 11.8.1960 in Iran. Passport number: D9004878.
2. AL-NASSER Abdelkarim Hussein Mohamed, born in Al Ihsa (Saudi Arabia), citizen of Saudi Arabia.
3. AL-YACIOUB Ibrahim Salih Mohammed, born 16.10.1966 in Tarut (Saudi Arabia), citizen of Saudi Arabia.
4. ARBABSAR Manssor (a.k.a. Mansour Arbabsar), born 6.3.1955 or 15.3.1955 in Iran. Iranian and US national, passport number: C2002515 (Iran); passport number: 477845448 (USA). National ID number: 07442833, expiry date 15.3.2016 (USA driving licence).
5. ASSADI Assadollah (a.k.a. Assadollah Asadi), born 22.12.1971 in Tehran (Iran), Iranian national. Iranian diplomatic passport number: D9016657.
6. BOUYERI Mohammed (a.k.a. Abu Zubair, a.k.a. Sobiari, a.k.a. Abu Zoubair), born 8.3.1978 in Amsterdam (The Netherlands).
7. HASSAN EL HAJJ Hassan, born 22.3.1988 in Zaghdraya, Sidon, Lebanon, Canadian citizen. Passport number: JX446643 (Canada).
8. HASHEMI MOGHADAM Saeid, born 6.8.1962 in Tehran (Iran), Iranian national. Passport number: D9016290, valid until 4.2.2019.
9. AL-DIN Hasan Izz (a.k.a. Garbaya Ahmed, a.k.a. Sa'id, a.k.a. Salwwan Samir), Lebanon, born 1963 in Lebanon, citizen of Lebanon.
10. MELIAD Farah, born 5.11.1980 in Sydney (Australia), Australian citizen. Passport number: M2719127 (Australia).
11. MOHAMMED Khalid Sheikh (a.k.a. Ali Salem, a.k.a. Bin Khalid Fahd Bin Abdallah, a.k.a. Henin Ashraf Refaat Nabith, a.k.a. Wadood Khalid Abdul), born 14.4.1965 or 1.3.1964 in Pakistan, passport number 488555.
12. SHAHLAI Abdul Reza (a.k.a. Abdol Reza Shala'i, a.k.a. Abd-al Reza Shalai, a.k.a. Abdorreza Shahlai, a.k.a. Abdolreza Shahla'i, a.k.a. Abdul-Reza Shahlaee, a.k.a. Hajj Yusef, a.k.a. Haji Yusif, a.k.a. Hajji Yasir, a.k.a. Hajji Yusif, a.k.a. Yusuf Abu-al-Karkh), born circa 1957 in Iran. Addresses: (1) Kermanshah, Iran, (2) Mehran Military Base, Ilam Province, Iran.
13. SHAKURI Ali Gholam, born circa 1965 in Tehran, Iran.

II. GROUPS AND ENTITIES

1. 'Abu Nidal Organisation' — 'ANO' (a.k.a. 'Fatah Revolutionary Council', a.k.a. 'Arab Revolutionary Brigades', a.k.a. 'Black September', a.k.a. 'Revolutionary Organisation of Socialist Muslims').
2. 'Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade'.
3. 'Al-Aqsa e.V'.
4. 'Babbar Khalsa'.
5. 'Communist Party of the Philippines', including 'New People's Army' — 'NPA', Philippines.
6. Directorate for Internal Security of the Iranian Ministry for Intelligence and Security.
7. 'Gama'a al-Islamiyya' (a.k.a. 'Al-Gama'a al-Islamiyya') ('Islamic Group' — 'IG').
8. 'İslami Büyük Doğu Akıncılar Cephesi' — 'İBDA-C' ('Great Islamic Eastern Warriors Front').
9. 'Hamas', including 'Hamas-Izz al-Din al-Qassem'.

10. 'Hizballah Military Wing' (a.k.a. 'Hezbollah Military Wing', a.k.a. 'Hizbullah Military Wing', a.k.a. 'Hizbollah Military Wing', a.k.a. 'Hezbollah Military Wing', a.k.a. 'Hisbollah Military Wing', a.k.a. 'Hizbu'llah Military Wing' a.k.a. 'Hizb Allah Military Wing', a.k.a. 'Jihad Council' (and all units reporting to it, including the External Security Organisation)).
 11. 'Hizbul Mujahideen' — 'HM'.
 12. 'Khalistan Zindabad Force' — 'KZF'.
 13. 'Kurdistan Workers' Party' — 'PKK' (a.k.a. 'KADEK', a.k.a. 'KONGRA-GEL').
 14. 'Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam' — 'LTTE'.
 15. 'Ejército de Liberación Nacional' ('National Liberation Army').
 16. 'Palestinian Islamic Jihad' — 'PIJ'.
 17. 'Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine' — 'PFLP'.
 18. 'Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine — General Command' (a.k.a. 'PFLP — General Command').
 19. 'Devrimci Halk Kurtuluş Partisi-Cephesi' — 'DHKP/C' (a.k.a. 'Devrimci Sol' ('Revolutionary Left'), a.k.a. 'Dev Sol' ('Revolutionary People's Liberation Army/Front/Party')).
 20. 'Sendero Luminoso' — 'SL' ('Shining Path').
 21. 'Teyrbazen Azadiya Kurdistan' — 'TAK' (a.k.a. 'Kurdistan Freedom Falcons', a.k.a. 'Kurdistan Freedom Hawks').
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COUNCIL REGULATION (EU) 2023/1506**of 20 July 2023****amending Regulation (EU) 2023/194 fixing for 2023 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters, as well as fixing for 2023 and 2024 such fishing opportunities for certain deep-sea fish stocks**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 43(3) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

- (1) Council Regulation (EU) 2023/194 ⁽¹⁾ fixes for 2023 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters. The total allowable catches (TACs) set by Regulation (EU) 2023/194 should be amended to take into account the publication of scientific advice as well as the outcomes of consultations with third countries.
- (2) Regulation (EU) 2023/194 sets a provisional TAC for Northern prawn (*Pandalus borealis*) in Union and Norwegian waters of ICES division 3a for 2023. The Union and Norway held consultations on the level of the TAC for Northern prawn in ICES division 3a and 4a East for the period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024. Those consultations were conducted on the basis of the Union position endorsed by the Council on 12 June 2023. On 29 June 2023, the Union and Norway agreed on a TAC in ICES division 3a and 4a East of 6 076 tonnes, of which 4 253 tonnes are to be allocated to ICES division 3a. That TAC level corresponds to what the level of the ICES advice for that stock for the period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 would have been had the advice been based on the assumption that fishing opportunities were not fully utilised in the first half of 2023 and that 900 tonnes remained unfished on 1 July 2023. According to the catch figures provided by the Union and Norway, that later assumption matches the fishing opportunities uptake level on 1 July 2023. In order to transition from the setting of a TAC for Northern prawn in ICES division 3a twice per year to once per year: (i) the provisional TAC for that stock for 2023 should be replaced by a definitive TAC for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2023 at the level agreed with Norway on 17 March 2023, and (ii) the TAC for that stock for the period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 should be set at the level agreed with Norway on 29 June 2023.
- (3) Regulation (EU) 2023/194 should therefore be amended accordingly.
- (4) In order to allow fishing to continue, this Regulation should enter into force without delay.
- (5) The provisions of this Regulation concerning fishing opportunities for Northern prawn should apply from 1 January 2023 and 1 July 2023 respectively. Such retroactive application does not affect the principles of legal certainty and protection of legitimate expectations, as the fishing opportunities concerned are either increased or have not yet been exhausted,

⁽¹⁾ Council Regulation (EU) 2023/194 of 30 January 2023 fixing for 2023 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters, as well as fixing for 2023 and 2024 such fishing opportunities for certain deep-sea fish stocks (OJ L 28, 31.1.2023, p. 1).

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Amendment of Regulation (EU) 2023/194

Annex IA of Regulation (EU) 2023/194 is amended in accordance with the Annex to this Regulation.

Article 2

Entry into force and application

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

It shall apply from 1 January 2023. However, point 2 of the Annex shall apply from 1 July 2023.

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

Done at Brussels, 20 July 2023.

For the Council

The President

J. BORRELL FONTELLES

ANNEX

Part B of Annex IA is amended as follows:

(1) the table for Northern prawn (*Pandalus borealis*) in ICES division 3a is replaced by the following:

Species: Northern prawn <i>Pandalus borealis</i>		Zone: 3a (PRA/03A.)	
Denmark	1 429	(1)	Analytical TAC
Sweden	769	(1)	Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply.
Union	2 198	(1)	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply.
TAC	4 117	(1)	
(1) This quota may only be fished from 1 January to 30 June 2023.			

(2) the following table is inserted after the table for Northern prawn (*Pandalus borealis*) in ICES division 3a:

Species: Northern prawn <i>Pandalus borealis</i>		Zone: 3a (PRA/03A.2)	
Denmark	1 476	(1)	Analytical TAC
Sweden	795	(1)	Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply.
Union	2 271	(1)	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply.
TAC	4 253	(1)	
(1) This quota may only be fished from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.			

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2023/1507**of 20 July 2023****laying down the technical specifications of data requirements and the deadlines for submission of metadata and quality reports for the topic of ICT usage and e-commerce for the reference year 2024, pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 of the European Parliament and of the Council****(Text with EEA relevance)**

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2019 on European business statistics, repealing 10 legal acts in the field of business statistics ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 7(1) and Article 17(6) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The topic of ICT usage and e-commerce provides the data required by the Digital Compass for the EU's Digital Decade to monitor the EU's digital targets for 2030, such as the Digital Intensity Indicator reflecting the digital transformation of businesses. It also provides information for various other Union policies related to Europe's digital performance and to the priority of the European Commission – A Europe fit for the digital age.
- (2) To be able to assess the quality of the data and to ensure that data on ICT usage and e-commerce are comparable and harmonised, metadata and quality reports are required to be provided before the data are released.
- (3) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the European Statistical System Committee,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

For the topic of ICT usage and e-commerce, as referred to in Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2019/2152, Member States shall transmit to the Commission (Eurostat) the data for reference year 2024 in accordance with the Annex to this Regulation.

Article 2

1. The annual metadata report for the topic of ICT usage and e-commerce for reference year 2024 shall be transmitted to the Commission (Eurostat) by 31 May 2024.
2. The annual quality report for the topic of ICT usage and e-commerce for reference year 2024 shall be transmitted to the Commission (Eurostat) by 5 November 2024.

Article 3

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

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 327, 17.12.2019, p. 1.

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

Done at Brussels, 20 July 2023.

For the Commission
The President
Ursula VON DER LEYEN

Technical specifications of data requirements for the topic ICT usage and e-commerce

Mandatory/optional	Scope (filter)	Variable
Mandatory variables	(i) for all enterprises	(1) main economic activity of the enterprise, in the previous calendar year (2) average number of employees and self-employed persons, in the previous calendar year (3) total value of turnover (in monetary terms, excluding VAT), in the previous calendar year (4) number of employees and self-employed persons or percentage of the total number of employees and self-employed persons who have access to the internet for business purposes (5) employment of ICT specialists (6) provision of any type of training to develop ICT-related skills for ICT specialists employed by the enterprise, in the previous calendar year (7) provision of any type of training to develop ICT-related skills for other persons employed, in the previous calendar year (8) recruitment of or the attempt to recruit ICT specialists in the previous calendar year (9) performance of ICT functions (such as maintenance of ICT infrastructure, support for office software, development or support of business management software/systems and/or web solutions, security and data protection) by own employees (including those employed in parent or affiliate enterprises), in the previous calendar year (10) performance of ICT functions (such as maintenance of ICT infrastructure, support for office software, development or support of business management software/systems and/or web solutions, security and data protection) by external suppliers, in the previous calendar year
	(ii) for enterprises with employees and self-employed persons who have access to the internet for business purposes	(11) use of any type of fixed connection to the internet (12) having remote access (via computers or portable devices such as smartphones) of persons employed to email system of the enterprise (13) having remote access (via computers or portable devices such as smartphones) of persons employed to documents of the enterprise (such as files, spreadsheets, presentations, charts, photos) (14) having remote access (via computers or portable devices such as smartphones) of persons employed to business applications or software of the enterprise (such as access to accounting, sales, orders, Customer Relationship Management (CRM)), excluding applications used for internal communication (15) conduct of remote meetings (16) having web sales of goods or services via the enterprise's websites or apps (including extranets), in the previous calendar year (17) having web sales of goods or services via e-commerce marketplace websites or apps used by several enterprises for trading goods or services, in the previous calendar year (18) having Electronic Data Interchange (EDI)-type sales (receipt of orders placed via EDI-type messages) of goods or services, in the previous calendar year

Mandatory/optional	Scope (filter)	Variable
		(19) application of the ICT security measures on enterprise's ICT systems: authentication via strong password (such as minimum length, use of numbers and special characters, changed periodically) (20) application of the ICT security measures on enterprise's ICT systems: authentication via biometric methods used to access the enterprise's ICT system (such as authentication based on fingerprints, voice, face) (21) application of the ICT security measures on enterprise's ICT systems: authentication based on a combination of at least two authentication mechanisms (i.e. combination of for example user-defined password, one-time password (OTP), code generated via a security token or received via a smartphone, biometric method (such as based on fingerprints, voice, face)) (22) application of the ICT security measures on enterprise's ICT systems: encryption of data, documents or e-mails (23) application of the ICT security measures on enterprise's ICT systems: data backup to a separate location (including backup to the cloud) (24) application of the ICT security measures on enterprise's ICT systems: network access control (management of user rights in enterprise's network) (25) application of the ICT security measures on enterprise's ICT systems: Virtual Private Network (VPN), which extends the private network across a public network to enable secure exchange of data over public network (26) application of the ICT security measures on enterprise's ICT systems: ICT security monitoring system used to detect suspicious activity (such as intrusion detection or prevention systems that monitors users' or devices' behaviour, network traffic), excluding anti-virus software and default firewall solution included in the operating system of personal computers and routers (27) application of the ICT security measures on enterprise's ICT systems: maintaining log files that enable analysis after ICT security incidents (28) application of the ICT security measures on enterprise's ICT systems: ICT risk assessment, i.e. periodical assessment of probability and consequences of ICT security incidents (29) application of the ICT security measures on enterprise's ICT systems: ICT security tests (such as performing penetration tests, testing security alert system, reviewing security measures, testing of backup systems) (30) making persons employed aware of their obligations in ICT security related issues through voluntary training or internally available information (such as information on the intranet) (31) making persons employed aware of their obligations in ICT security related issues through compulsory training courses or viewing compulsory material (32) making persons employed aware of their obligations in ICT security related issues through a contract (such as contract of employment) (33) having document(s) on measures, practices or procedures on ICT security, such as documents on ICT security and confidentiality of data covering employee training in ICT use, ICT security measures, the evaluation of ICT security measures, plans for updating ICT security documents

Mandatory/optional	Scope (filter)	Variable
		(34) ICT related security incidents experienced in the previous calendar year leading to the following consequences: unavailability of ICT services due to hardware or software failures (35) ICT related security incidents experienced in the previous calendar year leading to the following consequences: unavailability of ICT services due to attack from outside, such as ransomware attacks, Denial of Service attacks (36) ICT related security incidents experienced in the previous calendar year leading to the following consequences: destruction or corruption of data due to hardware or software failures (37) ICT related security incidents experienced in the previous calendar year leading to the following consequences: destruction or corruption of data due to infection of malicious software or unauthorised intrusion (38) ICT related security incidents experienced in the previous calendar year leading to the following consequences: disclosure of confidential data due to intrusion, pharming, phishing attack, intentional actions by own employees (39) ICT related security incidents experienced in the previous calendar year leading to the following consequences: disclosure of confidential data due to unintentional actions by own employees (40) use of Artificial Intelligence technologies performing analysis of written language (such as text mining) (41) use of Artificial Intelligence technologies converting spoken language into machine-readable format (speech recognition) (42) use of Artificial Intelligence technologies generating written or spoken language (natural language generation, speech synthesis) (43) use of Artificial Intelligence technologies identifying objects or persons based on images or videos (image recognition, image processing) (44) use of machine learning (such as deep learning) for data analysis (45) use of Artificial Intelligence technologies automating different workflows or assisting in decision-making (such as Artificial Intelligence based software robotic process automation) (46) use of Artificial Intelligence technologies enabling physical movement of machines via autonomous decisions based on observation of surroundings (autonomous robots, self-driving vehicles, autonomous drones)
	(iii) for enterprises using any type of fixed internet connection	(47) maximum contracted download speed of the fastest fixed internet connection in the ranges: [0 Mbit/s, < 30 Mbit/s], [30 Mbit/s, < 100 Mbit/s], [100 Mbit/s, < 500 Mbit/s], [500 Mbit/s, < 1 Gbit/s], [$\geq$ 1 Gbit/s] (48) sufficiency of the speed of fixed connection(s) to the internet for the actual needs of the enterprise

Mandatory/optional	Scope (filter)	Variable
	(iv) for enterprises which had web sales of goods and services via the enterprise's websites or apps or via e-commerce marketplace websites or apps used by several enterprises for trading goods or services, in the previous calendar year:	(49) value of web sales of goods or services, or percentage of total turnover generated by web sales of goods and services, in the previous calendar year (50) percentage of value of web sales generated by web sales to private consumers (Business to Consumers: B2C), in the previous calendar year (51) percentage of value of web sales generated by web sales to other enterprises (Business to Business: B2B) and to public sector (Business to Government: B2G), in the previous calendar year (52) web sales to customers located in the enterprise's own country, in the previous calendar year (53) web sales to customers located in other Member States, in the previous calendar year (54) web sales to customers located in the rest of the world, in the previous calendar year
	(v) for enterprises which had web sales of goods and services via the enterprise's websites or apps and via e-commerce marketplace websites or apps used by several enterprises for trading goods or services, in the previous calendar year	(55) percentage of value of web sales of goods or services generated by sales via the enterprise's websites or apps (including extranets), in the previous calendar year (56) percentage of value of web sales of goods or services generated by sales via e-commerce marketplace websites or apps used by several enterprises for trading goods or services, in the previous calendar year
	(vi) for enterprises which had EDI-type sales of goods and services, in the previous calendar year:	(57) value of EDI-type sales of goods or services or percentage of the total turnover generated by EDI-type sales of goods or services, in the previous calendar year
	(vii) for enterprises which have recruited or tried to recruit ICT specialists in the previous calendar year	(58) having vacancies for ICT specialists that were difficult to fill
	(viii) for enterprises using Artificial Intelligence technologies, referring specifically to mandatory variables (40) to (46)	(59) use of Artificial Intelligence software or systems for marketing or sales (such as customer profiling, price optimisation, personalised marketing offers, market analysis based on machine learning, chatbots based on natural language processing for customer support, autonomous robots for orders processing) (60) use of Artificial Intelligence software or systems for production or service processes (such as predictive maintenance or process optimization based on machine learning, tools to classify products or find defects in products based on computer vision, autonomous drones for production surveillance, security or inspection tasks, assembly works performed by autonomous robots)

Mandatory/optional	Scope (filter)	Variable
		(61) use of Artificial Intelligence software or systems for organisation of business administration processes or management (such as business virtual assistants based on machine learning and/or natural language processing (for example for document drafting), data analysis or strategic decision making based on machine learning (for example risk assessment), planning or business forecasting based on machine learning, human resources management based on machine learning or natural language processing (for example candidates pre-selection screening, employee profiling or performance analysis) (62) use of Artificial Intelligence software or systems for logistics (such as autonomous robots for pick-and-pack solutions in warehouses for parcel shipping, tracing, distribution or sorting, route optimization based on machine learning) (63) use of Artificial Intelligence software or systems for ICT security (such as face recognition based on computer vision for authentication of ICT users, detection and prevention of cyber-attacks based on machine learning) (64) use of Artificial Intelligence software or systems for accounting, controlling or finance management (such as machine learning to analyse data that helps to make financial decisions, invoice processing based on machine learning, machine learning or natural language processing used for bookkeeping tasks) (65) use of Artificial Intelligence software or systems for research and development (R & D) or innovation activity, excluding research on Artificial Intelligence (such as analysis of data for conducting research, solving research problems, developing a new or significantly improved product/service based on machine learning)
Optional variables	(i) for enterprises with employees and self-employed persons who have access to the internet for business purposes	(1) number of persons employed, or percentage of the total number of persons employed, using a portable device provided by the enterprise that allows connection to the internet via mobile telephone networks for business purposes (2) pay to advertise on the internet (such as adverts on search engines, on social media, on other websites or apps)
	(ii) for enterprises paying to advertise on the internet	(3) use of targeted advertising based on content or keywords searched by internet users (4) use of targeted advertising based on the tracking of internet users' past activities or profile (5) use of targeted advertising based on the geolocation of internet users (6) use of any other method of targeted advertising on the internet than the ones specified in optional variables (3), (4) or (5)
	(iii) for enterprises which had web sales to customers located in at least two of the following geographic areas: own country, other Member State or rest of the world, in the previous calendar year	(7) percentage of value of web sales generated by web sales to customers located in enterprise's own country, in the previous calendar year (8) percentage of value of web sales generated by web sales to customers located in other Member States, in the previous calendar year (9) percentage of value of web sales generated by web sales to customers located in the rest of the world, in the previous calendar year

Mandatory/optional	Scope (filter)	Variable
	(iv) for enterprises with vacancies for ICT specialists that were difficult to fill, when trying to recruit ICT specialists in the previous calendar year	(10) difficulties to recruit ICT specialists due to lack of applications, in the previous calendar year (11) difficulties to recruit ICT specialists due to applicants' lack of relevant ICT related qualifications from education and/or training, in the previous calendar year (12) difficulties to recruit ICT specialists due to applicants' lack of relevant work experience, in the previous calendar year (13) difficulties to recruit ICT specialists due to applicants' too high salary expectations, in the previous calendar year
	(v) for enterprises which have document(s) on measures, practices or procedures on ICT security	(14) time of definition or most recent review of enterprise's document(s) on measures, practices or procedures on ICT security: within the last 12 months, more than 12 months and up to twenty-four months ago
	(vi) for enterprises using Artificial Intelligence technologies, referring specifically to mandatory variables (40) to (46)	(15) Artificial Intelligence software and systems were developed by own employees (including those employed in parent or affiliate enterprise) (16) commercial Artificial Intelligence software or systems were modified by own employees (including those employed in parent or affiliate enterprise) (17) open-source Artificial Intelligence software or systems were modified by own employees (including those employed in parent or affiliate enterprise) (18) commercial Artificial Intelligence software or systems ready to use were purchased (including examples where they were already incorporated in a purchased item or system) (19) external providers were contracted to develop or modify Artificial Intelligence software and systems (20) processing data (such as sex, age, racial or ethnic origin, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation, facial images, record of purchases, occupation or address) on individuals (such as employees, job applicants or customers) using Artificial Intelligence technologies
	(vii) for enterprises which used Artificial Intelligence technologies to process data on individuals	(21) having measures (such as analysing the results of various machine learning models, examining the dataset that was used to train the machine learning model, data augmentation which involves techniques to artificially generate additional data points from existing data, i.e. synthetic data) to check the results generated by Artificial Intelligence technologies for possible biases towards individuals based on sex, age, racial or ethnic origin, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation
	(viii) for enterprises which did not use any Artificial Intelligence technologies, referring specifically to mandatory variables (40) to (46)	(22) consideration of using any of Artificial Intelligence technologies, referring specifically to mandatory variables (40) to (46)

Mandatory/optional	Scope (filter)	Variable
	(ix) for enterprises which did not use but considered to use Artificial Intelligence technologies, referring specifically to mandatory variables (40) to (46)	(23) Artificial Intelligence technologies not used because the costs seem too high (24) Artificial Intelligence technologies not used because there is a lack of relevant expertise in the enterprise (25) Artificial Intelligence technologies not used because of incompatibility with existing equipment, software or systems (26) Artificial Intelligence technologies not used because of difficulties with availability or quality of the necessary data (27) Artificial Intelligence technologies not used because of concerns regarding violation of data protection and privacy (28) Artificial Intelligence technologies not used because of lack of clarity about the legal consequences (such as liability in case of damage caused by the use of Artificial Intelligence) (29) Artificial Intelligence technologies not used because of ethical considerations (30) Artificial Intelligence technologies not used because they are not useful for the enterprise
Measurement unit	Absolute figures, except for characteristics related to turnover in national currency (thousands) or percentage of (total) turnover	
Statistical population	<i>Activity coverage</i> NACE Rev. 2 Sections C to J, L to N and group 95.1 <i>Size class coverage</i> Enterprises with 10 or more employees and self-employed persons. Enterprises with less than 10 employees and self-employed persons may be covered optionally.	
Breakdowns	<i>Activity breakdown</i> for calculation of national aggregates — aggregates of NACE Rev. 2 sections and group C+D+E+F+G+H+I+J+L+M+N+95.1, D+E — NACE Rev. 2 sections: C, F, G, H, I, J, L, M, N — NACE Rev. 2 divisions: 47, 55 — aggregates of NACE Rev. 2 divisions: 10 + 11 + 12 + 13 + 14 + 15 + 16 + 17 + 18, 19 + 20 + 21 + 22 + 23, 24 + 25, 26 + 27 + 28 + 29 + 30 + 31 + 32 + 33 — aggregate of the NACE Rev. 2 divisions and groups: 26.1 + 26.2 + 26.3 + 26.4 + 26.8 + 46.5 + 58.2 + 61 + 62 + 63.1 + 95.1 for contribution to the European totals only — NACE Rev. 2 sections: D, E — NACE Rev. 2 divisions: 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28, 45, 46, 61, 72, 79 — NACE Rev. 2 group: 95.1 — aggregates of NACE Rev. 2 divisions: 10 + 11 + 12, 13 + 14 + 15, 16 + 17 + 18, 22 + 23, 29 + 30, 31 + 32 + 33, 58 + 59 + 60, 62 + 63, 69 + 70 + 71, 73 + 74 + 75, 77 + 78 + 80 + 81 + 82 <i>Size class of number of employees and self-employed persons:</i> 10+, 10-49, 50-249, 250+; optional: 0-9, 0-1, 2-9	
Data transmission deadline	5 October 2024	

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2023/1508**of 20 July 2023****derogating in respect of the year 2023 from Article 44(2), second subparagraph, of Regulation (EU) 2021/2116 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the level of advance payments for interventions in the form of direct payments and area-based and animal-based rural development interventions**

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/2116 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 December 2021 on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 44(6) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Pursuant to Article 44(2), second subparagraph, of Regulation (EU) 2021/2116, from 16 October to 30 November Member States may pay advances of up to 50 % for interventions in the form of direct payments and prior to 1 December they may pay advances of up to 75 % for area-based and animal-based rural development interventions under Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽²⁾.
- (2) The Covid-19 pandemic, its impact on food supply chains, and the surge in the prices of energy and agricultural inputs since autumn 2021 have been putting the agricultural sector under pressure. In addition, the Russia's invasion of Ukraine aggravated the situation and had a further negative impact on the agriculture sector. Input prices, such as energy, fertiliser and feed costs have increased significantly in all agricultural sectors.
- (3) As a result, the share of energy and fertilisers costs in total intermediate consumption had increased significantly in 2022, with the largest increase being observed for field crops and permanent crops farms, in both cases because of their exposure to fertiliser costs. Fertiliser prices are still at historically very high levels. Data suggests that farmers have reacted by reducing their use of fertilisers with, as of yet, uncertain negative consequences on yields and the quality of food and feed commodities.
- (4) The prices of other inputs for farmers and food chain operators in the Union such as for example plant protection products and animal health treatments, machinery and packaging have increased in line with the general inflation.
- (5) Recently, prices for most agricultural commodities such as cereals, oilseeds and dairy products have been falling significantly. In some Member States, the situation has become particularly difficult as the ratio between input prices and commodity prices has deteriorated.
- (6) These circumstances, in addition to recent adverse meteorological events in certain regions, such as extreme drought and floods, are liable to cause liquidity problems for agricultural producers. To tackle these liquidity problems, Member States should be allowed to pay increased advance payments in respect of claim year 2023.
- (7) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee on the Agricultural Funds and the Common Agricultural Policy Committee,

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 435, 6.12.2021, p. 187.

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 December 2021 establishing rules on support for strategic plans to be drawn up by Member States under the common agricultural policy (CAP Strategic Plans) and financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1305/2013 and (EU) No 1307/2013 (OJ L 435, 6.12.2021, p. 1).

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

1. By way of derogation from Article 44(2), second subparagraph, point (a), of Regulation (EU) 2021/2116, in respect of claim year 2023, Member States may pay advances of up to 70 % for interventions in the form of direct payments under Title III, Chapter II of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115, and for the measures referred to in Chapter IV of Regulation (EU) No 228/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽³⁾ and in Chapter IV of Regulation (EU) No 229/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽⁴⁾.
2. By way of derogation from Article 44(2), second subparagraph, point (b), of Regulation (EU) 2021/2116, in respect of claim year 2023, Member States may pay advances of up to 85 % for the support granted under rural development area-based and animal-based interventions under Title III, Chapter IV, of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the third 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, 20 July 2023.

For the Commission
The President
Ursula VON DER LEYEN

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EU) No 228/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 March 2013 laying down specific measures for agriculture in the outermost regions of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 247/2006 (OJ L 78, 20.3.2013, p. 23).

⁽⁴⁾ Regulation (EU) No 229/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 March 2013 laying down specific measures for agriculture in favour of the smaller Aegean islands and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1405/2006 (OJ L 78, 20.3.2013, p. 41).

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2023/1509**of 20 July 2023****derogating in respect of the year 2023 from Article 75(1), third subparagraph, of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the level of advance payments for area-related and animal-related rural development measures**

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 352/78, (EC) No 165/94, (EC) No 2799/98, (EC) No 814/2000, (EC) No 1290/2005 and (EC) No 485/2008 ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 75(3) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Pursuant to Article 104(1), second subparagraph, point (a)(iv), of Regulation (EU) 2021/2116 of the European Parliament and the Council ⁽²⁾, Article 75 of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 continues to apply as regards the EAFRD, in relation to expenditure incurred by the beneficiaries and payments made by the paying agency in the framework of the implementation of rural development programmes pursuant to Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽³⁾.
- (2) Pursuant to Article 75(1), third subparagraph, of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 Member States may pay advances of up to 75 % for area-related and animal-related rural development support measures under Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013.
- (3) The Covid-19 pandemic, its impact on food supply chains, and the surge in the prices of energy and agricultural inputs since autumn 2021 have been putting the agricultural sector under pressure. In addition, the Russia's invasion of Ukraine aggravated the situation and had a further negative impact on the agriculture sector. Input prices, such as energy, fertiliser and feed costs have increased significantly in all agricultural sectors.
- (4) As a result, the share of energy and fertilisers costs in total intermediate consumption had increased significantly in 2022, with the largest increase being observed for field crops and permanent crops farms, in both cases because of their exposure to fertiliser costs. Fertiliser prices are still at historically very high levels. Data suggests that farmers have reacted by reducing their use of fertilisers with, as of yet, uncertain negative consequences on yields and the quality of food and feed commodities.
- (5) The prices of other inputs for farmers and food chain operators in the Union such as for example plant protection products and animal health treatments, machinery and packaging have increased in line with the general inflation.
- (6) Recently, prices for most agricultural commodities such as cereals, oilseeds and dairy products have been falling significantly. In some Member States, the situation has become particularly difficult as the ratio between input prices and commodity prices has deteriorated.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 352/78, (EC) No 165/94, (EC) No 2799/98, (EC) No 814/2000, (EC) No 1290/2005 and (EC) No 485/2008 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 549).

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/2116 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 December 2021 on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 (OJ L 435, 6.12.2021, p. 187).

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 487).

- (7) These circumstances, in addition to recent adverse meteorological events in certain regions, such as extreme drought and floods, are liable to cause liquidity problems for agricultural producers. To tackle these liquidity problems, Member States should be allowed to pay increased advance payments in respect of claim year 2023 for area-related and animal-related rural development measures.
- (8) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee on the Agricultural Funds and the Common Agriculture Policy Committee,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

By way of derogation from Article 75(1), third subparagraph, of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013, in respect of claim year 2023, Member States may pay advances of up to 85 % for the support granted under rural development as referred to in Article 67(2) of that Regulation.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the third 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, 20 July 2023.

For the Commission
The President
Ursula VON DER LEYEN

COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) 2023/1510
of 20 July 2023
amending Regulation (EU) 2023/915 as regards maximum levels of cadmium in tiger nuts and certain cultivated fungi

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 315/93 of 8 February 1993 laying down Community procedures for contaminants in food ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 2(3) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/915 ⁽²⁾ sets maximum levels for cadmium in a range of foodstuffs.
- (2) On 30 January 2009, the European Food Safety Authority ('the Authority') adopted a scientific opinion on cadmium in food ⁽³⁾. The Authority concluded that cadmium is primarily toxic to the kidney, especially to the proximal tubular cells where it accumulates over time and may cause renal dysfunction. In view of the toxic effects of cadmium on kidneys, the Authority established a tolerable weekly intake for cadmium of 2,5 µg/kg body weight. The Authority further concluded that the mean exposure for adults across the Union is close to, or slightly exceeds, the tolerable weekly intake. It also concluded that subgroups such as vegetarians, children, smokers and people living in highly contaminated areas may exceed the tolerable weekly intake by about twofold. Therefore, the Authority concluded that the current exposure to cadmium at the population level needs to be reduced. Following that scientific opinion, the Authority issued, on 17 January 2012, a scientific report where it confirmed that children and adults at the 95th percentile exposure could exceed the health-based guidance values ⁽⁴⁾.
- (3) Taking into account the Authority's scientific opinion and scientific report, new maximum levels for cadmium in baby foods and chocolate/cocoa products were established under Commission Regulation (EU) No 488/2014 ⁽⁵⁾. Commission Recommendation 2014/193/EU ⁽⁶⁾ was adopted, which called on Member States to ensure that the available mitigation methods were communicated and promoted to farmers and started or continued to be implemented, to regularly monitor the progress of the mitigation measures by collecting occurrence data on cadmium levels in foodstuffs and to report the data, in particular on cadmium levels close to or exceeding the maximum levels, by February 2018.
- (4) On the basis of the occurrence data, gathered after the implementation of the mitigation measures, by means of Commission Regulation (EU) 2021/1323 ⁽⁷⁾ the maximum levels for cadmium were lowered in a wide range of foods.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 37, 13.2.1993, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/915 of 25 April 2023 on maximum levels for certain contaminants in food and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1881/2006 (OJ L 119, 5.5.2023, p. 103).

⁽³⁾ EFSA Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain (CONTAM); Scientific opinion on cadmium in food. *EFSA Journal* 2009(980) 1-139, <https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2009.980>.

⁽⁴⁾ Scientific Report of EFSA on Cadmium dietary exposure in the European population. *EFSA Journal* 2012;10(1), 2551 [37 pp.], <https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2012.2551>.

⁽⁵⁾ Commission Regulation (EU) No 488/2014 of 12 May 2014 amending Regulation (EC) No 1881/2006 as regards maximum levels of cadmium in foodstuffs (OJ L 138, 13.5.2014, p. 75).

⁽⁶⁾ Commission Recommendation 2014/193/EU of 4 April 2014 on the on the reduction of the presence of cadmium in foodstuffs (OJ L 104, 8.4.2014, p. 80).

⁽⁷⁾ Commission Regulation (EU) 2021/1323 of 10 August 2021 amending Regulation (EC) No 1881/2006 as regards maximum levels of cadmium in certain foodstuffs (OJ L 288, 11.8.2021, p. 13).

- (5) Since the publication of Regulation (EU) 2021/1323, new occurrence data have become available for tiger nuts and for some less consumed species of cultivated fungi.
- (6) The maximum level for cadmium in radishes, which by Regulation (EU) 2021/1323, was lowered from 0,10 to 0,020 mg/kg applies to tiger nuts. This maximum level was lowered on the basis of the at that time available occurrence data for the most consumed species within the commodity group of radishes (*Raphanus sativus* var. *sativus*). However, in the meanwhile more recent occurrence data have become available specifically for tiger nuts, which show that tiger nuts contain higher concentrations of cadmium than other radishes. Therefore, it has become clear that the maximum level established for cadmium in tiger nuts is not in line with the 'As Low As Reasonably Achievable' (ALARA) principle. Furthermore in view of the low consumption volume of tiger nuts, their contribution to the consumer exposure to cadmium is limited.
- (7) By Regulation (EU) 2021/1323 the maximum levels for cultivated fungi were lowered from 0,20 mg/kg for *Agaricus bisporus*, *Lentinula edodes* and *Pleurotus ostreatus* and 1,0 mg/kg for other cultivated fungi to 0,15 mg/kg for *Lentinula edodes* and *Pleurotus ostreatus* and 0,050 mg/kg for all other cultivated fungi, including *Agaricus bisporus*. The maximum level for cultivated fungi other than *Lentinula edodes* and *Pleurotus ostreatus* was lowered on the basis of the at that time available occurrence data for the most consumed species of this commodity group (*Agaricus bisporus*). However, in the meanwhile more recent occurrence data have become available for some specific species of cultivated fungi less consumed than *Agaricus bisporus*, *Lentinula edodes* and *Pleurotus ostreatus*, which show that these contain higher cadmium concentrations than *Agaricus bisporus*. Therefore, it has become clear that the maximum level established for cadmium in cultivated fungi other than *Agaricus bisporus*, *Lentinula edodes* and *Pleurotus ostreatus* is not in line with the 'ALARA' principle. Furthermore, as the species *Agaricus bisporus*, *Lentinula edodes* and *Pleurotus ostreatus* represent the main fraction of the total volume of fungi consumed in the Union, the contribution of the other cultivated fungi to the consumer exposure to cadmium is limited.
- (8) In order to take into account the 'ALARA' principle and avoid disproportionate non-compliance rates for tiger nuts and cultivated fungi other than *Agaricus bisporus*, *Lentinula edodes* and *Pleurotus ostreatus*, while maintaining a high level of food safety, the maximum levels for cadmium in those species should be increased.
- (9) Therefore, Regulation (EU) 2023/915 should be amended accordingly.
- (10) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

The Annex to Regulation (EU) 2023/915 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, 20 July 2023.

For the Commission
The President
Ursula VON DER LEYEN

Section 3 (Metals and other elements), subsection 3.2 (Cadmium), of the Annex to Regulation (EU) 2023/915 is amended as follows:

(1) entry 3.2.2 is replaced by the following:

‘3.2.2	Root and tuber vegetables		The maximum level applies to the wet weight. The maximum level applies after washing and separating the edible part.
3.2.2.1	Root and tuber vegetables except products listed in 3.2.2.2, 3.2.2.3, 3.2.2.4, 3.2.2.5, 3.2.2.6 and 3.2.2.7	0,10	For potatoes, the maximum level applies to peeled potatoes.’
3.2.2.2	Beetroots	0,060	
3.2.2.3	Celeriac	0,15	
3.2.2.4	Horseradish, parsnips, salsify	0,20	
3.2.2.5	Radishes other than tiger nuts	0,020	
3.2.2.6	Tiger nuts	0,10	
3.2.2.7	Tropical roots and tubers, parsley roots, turnips	0,050	

(2) entry 3.2.9 is replaced by the following:

‘3.2.9	Fungi		The maximum level applies to the wet weight. The maximum level applies after washing and separating the edible part.’
3.2.9.1	<i>Agaricus bisporus</i>	0,050	
3.2.9.2	Cultivated fungi other than <i>Agaricus bisporus</i>	0,15	
3.2.9.3	Wild fungi	0,50	

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2023/1511**of 20 July 2023****amending Implementing Regulations (EU) 2018/2019 and (EU) 2020/1213 as regards certain plants for planting of *Malus sylvestris* originating in the United Kingdom**

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 October 2016 on protective measures against pests of plants, amending Regulations (EU) No 228/2013, (EU) No 652/2014 and (EU) No 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Council Directives 69/464/EEC, 74/647/EEC, 93/85/EEC, 98/57/EC, 2000/29/EC, 2006/91/EC and 2007/33/EC ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 42(4), third subparagraph thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 ⁽²⁾ establishes, on the basis of a preliminary risk assessment, a list of high risk plants, plant products and other objects.
- (2) Following a preliminary assessment, 34 genera and one species of plants for planting originating from third countries are provisionally listed in Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 as high risk plants. One of the listed genera is *Malus* Mill.
- (3) Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1213 ⁽³⁾ sets out the phytosanitary measures for the introduction into the Union territory of certain plants, plant products and other objects, which have been removed from the Annex to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019, but for which phytosanitary risks are not yet fully assessed. This is because one or more pests hosted by those plants are not yet included in the list of Union quarantine pests of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 ⁽⁴⁾, but they may fulfil the conditions to be included following a further complete risk assessment.
- (4) On 4 March 2022, the United Kingdom ⁽⁵⁾ submitted to the Commission a request for export to the Union the following: up to seven-year-old bare rooted plants for planting of *Malus sylvestris* with a maximum diameter of 40 mm at the base of the stem; and up to seven-year-old plants for planting of *Malus sylvestris* in growing medium, with a maximum diameter of 40 mm at the base of the stem ('the relevant plants'). That request was supported by the relevant technical dossier.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 317, 23.11.2016, p. 4.

⁽²⁾ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 of 18 December 2018 establishing a provisional list of high risk plants, plant products or other objects, within the meaning of Article 42 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 and a list of plants for which phytosanitary certificates are not required for introduction into the Union, within the meaning of Article 73 of that Regulation (OJ L 323, 19.12.2018, p. 10).

⁽³⁾ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1213 of 21 August 2020 concerning the phytosanitary measures for the introduction into the Union of certain plants, plant products and other objects which have been removed from the Annex to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 (OJ L 275, 24.8.2020, p. 5).

⁽⁴⁾ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 of 28 November 2019 establishing uniform conditions for the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and the Council, as regards protective measures against pests of plants, and repealing Commission Regulation (EC) No 690/2008 and amending Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 (OJ L 319, 10.12.2019, p. 1).

⁽⁵⁾ In accordance with the Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community, and in particular Article 5(4) of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland in conjunction with Annex 2 to that Protocol, for the purposes of this act, references to the United Kingdom do not include Northern Ireland.

- (5) On 24 May 2023, the European Food Safety Authority ('the Authority') adopted a scientific opinion as regards the risk assessment of the relevant plants originating in the United Kingdom ⁽⁶⁾. The Authority identified *Colletotrichum aenigma*, *Meloidogyne mali*, *Eulecanium excrescens*, *Takahashia japonica*, Tobacco ringspot virus, Tomato ringspot virus and *Erwinia amylovora* as pests relevant for these plants.
- (6) The Authority evaluated the risk mitigation measures described in the dossier for *Colletotrichum aenigma*, *Meloidogyne mali*, *Eulecanium excrescens*, *Takahashia japonica*, Tobacco ringspot virus and Tomato ringspot virus and estimated the likelihood of the freedom of the relevant plants from those pests. It concluded that the likelihood that the relevant plants are free from those pests is high. Concerning *Erwinia amylovora*, the Authority evaluated whether the special requirements for the introduction into, and movement within the specified protected zones, listed in point 9 of Annex X to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072, of plants of *Malus* Mill., other than fruits and seeds, are fulfilled. It concluded that the United Kingdom fulfils those special requirements.
- (7) Based on that opinion, the phytosanitary risk from the introduction into the Union territory of the relevant plants is considered to be reduced to an acceptable level, provided that appropriate measures are applied to address the risk of pests related to those plants.
- (8) The measures described by the United Kingdom in the technical dossier are considered sufficient to reduce the risk from the introduction into the Union territory of the relevant plants to an acceptable level. Those measures should therefore be adopted as phytosanitary import requirements to ensure the phytosanitary protection of the Union territory from introduction of the relevant plants into it.
- (9) Consequently, the relevant plants should no longer be considered high risk plants.
- (10) Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 should therefore be amended accordingly.
- (11) *Erwinia amylovora* is listed as a protected zone quarantine pest, for certain protected zones, and as a Union regulated non-quarantine pest for the rest of the Union territory, in Annexes III and IV to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 respectively. Special requirements are in place in point 9 of Annex X to that Regulation, to prevent the entry and spread of the pest within the specified protected zones. Tobacco ringspot virus and Tomato ringspot virus are listed as Union quarantine pests in Annex II to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072.
- (12) *Colletotrichum aenigma*, *Eulecanium excrescens*, and *Takahashia japonica* are not yet included in the list of Union quarantine pests of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072. A complete risk assessment on those pests needs to become available, to determine whether the pests fulfil the conditions to be listed in Annex II to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072, and whether the relevant plants, originating in the United Kingdom, are to be listed in Annex VII to that Regulation, together with the respective measures.
- (13) Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1213 should therefore be amended accordingly.
- (14) *Meloidogyne mali* is not included in the list of Union quarantine pests. A pest risk analysis for that pest was published by the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) in September 2017 ⁽⁷⁾. Based on discussions with the Member States, it was concluded that the pest should not be regulated as a Union quarantine pest nor as a Union regulated non-quarantine pest, because although it has been present in certain Member States for a long time without official control measures, its phytosanitary risk in those Member States is considered low. For that reason, no import requirements are necessary with respect to that pest.
- (15) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Committee for Plants, Animals, Food and Feed,

⁽⁶⁾ EFSA PLH Panel (EFSA Panel on Plant Health), 2022. Scientific Opinion on the commodity risk assessment of *Malus sylvestris* plants from United Kingdom. *EFSA Journal* 2023;21(6):8076, 122 pp. <https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2023.8076>

⁽⁷⁾ EPPO (2017) Pest risk analysis for *Meloidogyne mali*. EPPO, Paris. Available at http://www.eppo.int/QUARANTINE/Pest_Risk_Analysis/PRA_intro.htm and <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/MELGMA>.

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

The Annex to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019 is amended in accordance with Annex I to this Regulation.

Article 2

The Annex to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1213 is amended in accordance with Annex II to this Regulation.

Article 3

This Regulation shall enter into force on the third 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, 20 July 2023.

For the Commission
The President
Ursula VON DER LEYEN

ANNEX I

In the Annex to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019, in the table of point 1, in the second column 'Description', the entry for 'Malus Mill.' is replaced by the following:

'Malus Mill., other than:

- one- to two-year-old bare rooted, dormant, free of leaves, grafted plants for planting of *Malus domestica* originating in Serbia;
 - up to three-year-old bare-rooted, dormant, free of leaves, grafted plants for planting of *Malus domestica* originating in Moldova;
 - up to three-year-old bare-rooted, dormant, free of leaves, rootstocks of *Malus domestica* originating in Ukraine;
 - up to three-year-old bare-rooted, dormant, free of leaves, grafted plants for planting of *Malus domestica* originating in Ukraine;
 - up to one-year-old free of leaves, cuttings of *Malus domestica* originating in the United Kingdom;
 - up to seven-year-old plants for planting of *Malus domestica* originating in the United Kingdom; and
 - up to seven-year-old plants for planting of *Malus sylvestris* with a maximum diameter of 40 mm at the base of the stem, originating in the United Kingdom'.
-

ANNEX II

In the table in the Annex to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1213, the following entry is inserted after '*Ligustrum delavayanum* and *Ligustrum japonicum*, up to 20-year-old plants for planting in growing medium, with a maximum diameter of 18 cm at the base of the stem.':

Plants, plant products or other objects	CN Code	Third countries of origin	Measures
' <i>Malus sylvestris</i> , up to 7-year-old plants for planting with a maximum diameter of 40 mm at the base of the stem	ex 0602 10 90 ex 0602 20 20 ex 0602 20 80	United Kingdom	(a) Official statement that: (i) the plants are free from <i>Colletotrichum aenigma</i>, <i>Eulecanium excrescens</i> and <i>Takahashia japonica</i>; (ii) the site of production has been found free from <i>Colletotrichum aenigma</i>, <i>Eulecanium excrescens</i>, and <i>Takahashia japonica</i> during official inspections carried out at appropriate times, since the beginning of the last growing season; (iii) a system has been put in place to ensure that tools and machinery have been cleaned to be free from soil and plant debris, and disinfected to be free from <i>Colletotrichum aenigma</i>, before they have been introduced into the site of production; and (iv) immediately prior to export, consignments of the plants have been subjected to an official inspection for the presence of <i>Eulecanium excrescens</i> and <i>Takahashia japonica</i>, with such a sample size as to enable at least the detection of 1 % level of infestation with a level of confidence of 99 %; and to an official inspection for the presence of <i>Colletotrichum aenigma</i> including random sampling and testing of the plants; (b) the phytosanitary certificates for those plants include under the heading "Additional Declaration": (i) the following statement: "The consignment complies with Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1213"; and (ii) the specification of the registered sites of production.'

DECISIONS

POLITICAL AND SECURITY COMMITTEE DECISION (CFSP) 2023/1512

of 19 July 2023

extending the mandate of the Head of Mission of the European Union CSDP Advisory Mission in the Central African Republic (EUAM RCA) (EUAM RCA/1/2023)

THE POLITICAL AND SECURITY COMMITTEE,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular the third paragraph of Article 38 thereof,

Having regard to Council Decision (CFSP) 2019/2110 of 9 December 2019 on the European Union CSDP Advisory Mission in the Central African Republic (EUAM RCA) ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 8(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Pursuant to Article 8(1) of Decision (CFSP) 2019/2110, the Political and Security Committee (PSC) is authorised, in accordance with Article 38 of the Treaty, to take the relevant decisions for the purpose of exercising political control and strategic direction of the European Union CSDP Advisory Mission in the Central African Republic (EUAM RCA), including the decision to appoint a Head of Mission.
- (2) On 25 August 2022, the PSC adopted Decision (CFSP) 2022/1436, ⁽²⁾ appointing Mr José Manuel MARQUES DIAS as Head of Mission of EUAM RCA from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023.
- (3) On 28 July 2022, the Council adopted Decision (CFSP) 2022/1333 ⁽³⁾ amending Decision (CFSP) 2019/2110 and extending the mandate of EUAM RCA until 9 August 2024.
- (4) The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy has proposed to extend the mandate of Mr José Manuel MARQUES DIAS as Head of Mission of EUAM RCA from 1 September 2023 to 9 August 2024,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The mandate of Mr José Manuel MARQUES DIAS as Head of Mission of the European Union CSDP Advisory Mission in the Central African Republic (EUAM RCA) is hereby extended from 1 September 2023 to 9 August 2024.

Article 2

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

It shall apply from 1 September 2023.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 318, 10.12.2019, p. 141.

⁽²⁾ Political and Security Committee Decision (CFSP) 2022/1436 of 25 August 2022 on the appointment of the Head of Mission of the European Union CSDP Advisory Mission in the Central African Republic (EUAM RCA) (EUAM RCA/1/2022) (OJ L 225, 31.8.2022, p. 1).

⁽³⁾ Council Decision (CFSP) 2022/1333 of 28 July 2022 amending Decision (CFSP) 2019/2110 on the European Union CSDP Advisory Mission in the Central African Republic (EUAM RCA) (OJ L 201, 1.8.2022, p. 25).

Done at Brussels, 19 July 2023.

For the Political and Security Committee
The Chairperson
D. PRONK

POLITICAL AND SECURITY COMMITTEE DECISION (CFSP) 2023/1513**of 19 July 2023****on the acceptance of a third State's contribution to the European Union Mission in Armenia (EUMA) (EUMA/2/2023)**

THE POLITICAL AND SECURITY COMMITTEE,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Article 38, third paragraph, thereof,

Having regard to Council Decision (CFSP) 2023/162 of 23 January 2023 on a European Union mission in Armenia (EUMA) ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 9(3) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Pursuant to Article 9(3) of Decision (CFSP) 2023/162, the Council authorised the Political and Security Committee (PSC) to take the relevant decisions on the acceptance of proposed contributions to EUMA by third States.
- (2) Following the recommendation of the Civilian Operations Commander on Canada's proposed contribution to EUMA, the contribution from Canada should be accepted and considered to be significant,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

1. The contribution from Canada to the European Union Mission in Armenia (EUMA) is accepted and is considered to be significant.
2. Canada is exempted from financial contributions to the budget of EUMA.

Article 2

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

Done at Brussels, 19 July 2023.

For the Political and Security Committee

The Chairperson

D. PRONK

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 22, 24.1.2023, p. 29.

COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2023/1514**of 20 July 2023****updating the list of persons, groups and entities subject to Articles 2, 3 and 4 of Common Position 2001/931/CFSP on the application of specific measures to combat terrorism, and repealing Decision (CFSP) 2023/422**

The Council of the European Union,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Article 29 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy,

Whereas:

- (1) On 27 December 2001, the Council adopted Common Position 2001/931/CFSP ⁽¹⁾.
- (2) On 24 February 2023, the Council adopted Decision (CFSP) 2023/422 ⁽²⁾, updating the list of persons, groups and entities subject to Articles 2, 3 and 4 of Common Position 2001/931/CFSP (the 'list').
- (3) In accordance with Article 1(6) of Common Position 2001/931/CFSP, it is necessary to review at regular intervals the names of persons, groups and entities in the list to ensure that there are grounds for keeping them thereon.
- (4) This Decision sets out the result of the review that the Council has carried out in respect of persons, groups and entities to which Articles 2, 3 and 4 of Common Position 2001/931/CFSP apply.
- (5) The Council has verified that competent authorities, as referred to in Article 1(4) of Common Position 2001/931/CFSP, have taken decisions with regard to all persons, groups and entities on the list to the effect that they have been involved in terrorist acts within the meaning of Article 1(2) and (3) of Common Position 2001/931/CFSP. The Council has also concluded that the persons, groups and entities to which Articles 2, 3 and 4 of Common Position 2001/931/CFSP apply should continue to be subject to the specific restrictive measures provided for in Common Position 2001/931/CFSP.
- (6) The list should be updated accordingly, and Decision (CFSP) 2023/422 should be repealed,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The list of persons, groups and entities to which Articles 2, 3 and 4 of Common Position 2001/931/CFSP apply is set out in the Annex to this Decision.

Article 2

Decision (CFSP) 2023/422 is hereby repealed.

⁽¹⁾ Council Common Position 2001/931/CFSP of 27 December 2001 on the application of specific measures to combat terrorism (OJ L 344, 28.12.2001, p. 93).

⁽²⁾ Council Decision (CFSP) 2023/422 of 24 February 2023 updating the list of persons, groups and entities subject to Articles 2, 3 and 4 of Common Position 2001/931/CFSP on the application of specific measures to combat terrorism, and repealing Decision (CFSP) 2022/1241 (OJ L 61, 27.2.2023, p. 58).

Article 3

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

Done at Brussels, 20 July 2023.

For the Council

The President

J. BORRELL FONTELLES

ANNEX

LIST OF PERSONS, GROUPS AND ENTITIES REFERRED TO IN ARTICLE 1**I. PERSONS**

1. ABDOLLAHI Hamed (a.k.a. Mustafa Abdullahi), born 11.8.1960 in Iran. Passport number: D9004878.
2. AL-NASSER Abdelkarim Hussein Mohamed, born in Al Ihsa (Saudi Arabia), citizen of Saudi Arabia.
3. AL-YACIOUB Ibrahim Salih Mohammed, born 16.10.1966 in Tarut (Saudi Arabia), citizen of Saudi Arabia.
4. ARBABSAR Manssor (a.k.a. Mansour Arbabsar), born 6.3.1955 or 15.3.1955 in Iran. Iranian and US national, passport number: C2002515 (Iran); passport number: 477845448 (USA). National ID number: 07442833, expiry date 15.3.2016 (USA driving licence).
5. ASSADI Assadollah (a.k.a. Assadollah Asadi), born 22.12.1971 in Tehran (Iran), Iranian national. Iranian diplomatic passport number: D9016657.
6. BOUYERI Mohammed (a.k.a. Abu Zubair, a.k.a. Sobiari, a.k.a. Abu Zoubair), born 8.3.1978 in Amsterdam (The Netherlands).
7. HASSAN EL HAJJ Hassan, born 22.3.1988 in Zaghdraya, Sidon, Lebanon, Canadian citizen. Passport number: JX446643 (Canada).
8. HASHEMI MOGHADAM Saeid, born 6.8.1962 in Tehran (Iran), Iranian national. Passport number: D9016290, valid until 4.2.2019.
9. AL-DIN Hasan Izz (a.k.a. Garbaya Ahmed, a.k.a. Sa'id, a.k.a. Salwwan Samir), Lebanon, born 1963 in Lebanon, citizen of Lebanon.
10. MELIAD Farah, born 5.11.1980 in Sydney (Australia), Australian citizen. Passport number: M2719127 (Australia).
11. MOHAMMED Khalid Sheikh (a.k.a. Ali Salem, a.k.a. Bin Khalid Fahd Bin Abdallah, a.k.a. Henin Ashraf Refaat Nabith, a.k.a. Wadood Khalid Abdul), born 14.4.1965 or 1.3.1964 in Pakistan, passport number 488555.
12. SHAHLAI Abdul Reza (a.k.a. Abdol Reza Shala'i, a.k.a. Abd-al Reza Shalai, a.k.a. Abdorreza Shahlai, a.k.a. Abdolreza Shahla'i, a.k.a. Abdul-Reza Shahlaee, a.k.a. Hajj Yusef, a.k.a. Haji Yusif, a.k.a. Hajji Yasir, a.k.a. Hajji Yusif, a.k.a. Yusuf Abu-al-Karkh), born circa 1957 in Iran. Addresses: (1) Kermanshah, Iran, (2) Mehran Military Base, Ilam Province, Iran.
13. SHAKURI Ali Gholam, born circa 1965 in Tehran, Iran.

II. GROUPS AND ENTITIES

1. 'Abu Nidal Organisation' – 'ANO' (a.k.a. 'Fatah Revolutionary Council', a.k.a. 'Arab Revolutionary Brigades', a.k.a. 'Black September', a.k.a. 'Revolutionary Organisation of Socialist Muslims').
2. 'Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade'.
3. 'Al-Aqsa e.V'.
4. 'Babbar Khalsa'.

5. 'Communist Party of the Philippines', including 'New People's Army' – 'NPA', Philippines.
 6. Directorate for Internal Security of the Iranian Ministry for Intelligence and Security.
 7. 'Gama'a al-Islamiyya' (a.k.a. 'Al-Gama'a al-Islamiyya') ('Islamic Group' – 'IG').
 8. 'İslami Büyük Doğu Akıncılar Cephesi' – 'İBDA-C' ('Great Islamic Eastern Warriors Front').
 9. 'Hamas', including 'Hamas-Izz al-Din al-Qassem'.
 10. 'Hizballah Military Wing' (a.k.a. 'Hezbollah Military Wing', a.k.a. 'Hizbullah Military Wing', a.k.a. 'Hizbollah Military Wing', a.k.a. 'Hezbollah Military Wing', a.k.a. 'Hisbollah Military Wing', a.k.a. 'Hizbu'llah Military Wing' a.k.a. 'Hizb Allah Military Wing', a.k.a. 'Jihad Council' (and all units reporting to it, including the External Security Organisation)).
 11. 'Hizbul Mujahideen' – 'HM'.
 12. 'Khalistan Zindabad Force' – 'KZF'.
 13. 'Kurdistan Workers' Party' – 'PKK' (a.k.a. 'KADEK', a.k.a. 'KONGRA-GEL').
 14. 'Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam' – 'LTTE'.
 15. 'Ejército de Liberación Nacional' ('National Liberation Army').
 16. 'Palestinian Islamic Jihad' – 'PIJ'.
 17. 'Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine' – 'PFLP'.
 18. 'Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine – General Command' (a.k.a. 'PFLP – General Command').
 19. 'Devrimci Halk Kurtuluş Partisi-Cephesi' – 'DHKP/C' (a.k.a. 'Devrimci Sol' ('Revolutionary Left'), a.k.a. 'Dev Sol') ('Revolutionary People's Liberation Army/Front/Party').
 20. 'Sendero Luminoso' – 'SL' ('Shining Path').
 21. 'Teyrbazen Azadiya Kurdistan' – 'TAK' (a.k.a. 'Kurdistan Freedom Falcons', a.k.a. 'Kurdistan Freedom Hawks').
-

COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2023/1515**of 20 July 2023****amending Decision (CFSP) 2021/1026 in support of the Cyber Security and Resilience and Information Assurance Programme of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in the framework of the implementation of the EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Articles 28(1) and 31(1) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy,

Whereas:

- (1) On 21 June 2021, the Council adopted Decision (CFSP) 2021/1026 ⁽¹⁾.
- (2) On 18 May 2023, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, which is responsible for the technical implementation of the activities referred to in Article 1 of Decision (CFSP) 2021/1026, requested an extension of 12 months, until 30 August 2024, for the implementation of that Decision.
- (3) The ongoing implementation of Decision (CFSP) 2021/1026 does not have any additional financial implications for the period until 30 August 2024.
- (4) Decision (CFSP) 2021/1026 should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

In Article 5 of Decision (CFSP) 2021/1026, paragraph 2 is replaced by the following:

- ‘2. This Decision shall expire on 30 August 2024.’.

Article 2

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

Done at Brussels, 20 July 2023.

For the Council

The President

J. BORRELL FONTELLES

⁽¹⁾ Council Decision (CFSP) 2021/1026 of 21 June 2021 in support of the Cyber Security and Resilience and Information Assurance Programme of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in the framework of the implementation of the EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (OJ L 224, 24.6.2021, p. 24).

COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2023/1516**of 20 July 2023****extending the mandate of the European Union Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina and
amending Decision (CFSP) 2019/1340**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Article 33 and Article 31(2) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy,

Whereas:

- (1) On 11 March 2002, the Council agreed to appoint a European Union Special Representative (EUSR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- (2) On 8 August 2019, the Council adopted Decision (CFSP) 2019/1340 ⁽¹⁾ appointing Mr Johann SATTLER as the EUSR in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The EUSR's mandate has been successively extended, most recently by Council Decision (CFSP) 2021/1193 ⁽²⁾, and is to expire on 31 August 2023.
- (3) The EUSR's mandate should be extended for a further period of 12 months and a new financial reference amount for the period from 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 should be established.
- (4) The EUSR will implement the mandate in the context of a situation which may deteriorate and could impede the achievement of the objectives of the Union's external action as set out in Article 21 of the Treaty,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Decision (CFSP) 2019/1340 is amended as follows:

- (1) Article 1 is replaced by the following:

'Article 1

European Union Special Representative

The mandate of Mr Johann SATTLER as the European Union Special Representative (EUSR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina is extended until 31 August 2024. The Council may decide that the mandate of the EUSR be terminated earlier, based on an assessment by the Political and Security Committee (PSC) and a proposal from the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (HR).';

- (2) in Article 5(1), the following subparagraph is added:

'The financial reference amount intended to cover the expenditure related to the EUSR's mandate for the period from 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 shall be EUR 5 530 000';

⁽¹⁾ Council Decision (CFSP) 2019/1340 of 8 August 2019 appointing the European Union Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina (OJ L 209, 9.8.2019, p. 10).

⁽²⁾ Council Decision (CFSP) 2021/1193 of 19 July 2021 extending the mandate of the European Union Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina and amending Decision (CFSP) 2019/1340 (OJ L 258, 20.7.2021, p. 46).

(3) in Article 14, the second sentence is replaced by the following:

‘The EUSR shall present the Council, the HR and the Commission with regular progress reports and a final comprehensive mandate implementation report by 31 May 2024.’.

Article 2

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

Done at Brussels, 20 July 2023.

For the Council

The President

J. BORRELL FONTELLES

COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2023/1517**of 20 July 2023****amending Decision 2014/512/CFSP concerning restrictive measures in view of Russia's actions destabilising the situation in Ukraine**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Article 29 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy,

Whereas:

- (1) On 31 July 2014, the Council adopted Decision 2014/512/CFSP ⁽¹⁾.
- (2) In its Conclusions, adopted on 29-30 June 2023, the European Council reiterated its condemnation of the Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, which constitutes a manifest violation of the UN Charter, and recalled the Union's unwavering support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders and its inherent right of self-defence against the Russian aggression. The European Council also strongly condemned the deliberate destruction of the dam at the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant, as well as Russia's unlawful deportation and transfer to Russia and to Belarus of Ukrainian children and other civilians.
- (3) As long as the illegal actions by the Russian Federation continue to violate the prohibition on the use of force, which is a peremptory rule of international law, it is appropriate to maintain in force all the measures imposed by the Union and to take additional measures, if necessary. Consequently, Decision 2014/512/CFSP should be renewed for a further six months.
- (4) Decision 2014/512/CFSP should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

In Decision 2014/512/CFSP, Article 9(1) is replaced by the following:

- ‘1. This Decision shall apply until 31 January 2024.’.

Article 2

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

Done at Brussels, 20 July 2023.

For the Council

The President

J. BORRELL FONTELLES

⁽¹⁾ Council Decision 2014/512/CFSP of 31 July 2014 concerning restrictive measures in view of Russia's actions destabilising the situation in Ukraine (OJ L 229, 31.7.2014, p. 13).

COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2023/1518**of 20 July 2023****on an assistance measure under the European Peace Facility to support the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Articles 28(1) and 41(2) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy,

Whereas:

- (1) Council Decision (CFSP) 2021/509 ⁽¹⁾ establishes the European Peace Facility (EPF) for the financing by Member States of Union actions under the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) to preserve peace, prevent conflicts and strengthen international security pursuant to Article 21(2), point (c), of the Treaty. In particular, pursuant to Article 1(2) of Decision (CFSP) 2021/509, the EPF is to be used for the financing of assistance measures such as actions to strengthen the capacities of third states and regional and international organisations relating to military and defence matters.
- (2) The current crisis in the eastern provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo demonstrates the tragic human cost that will continue to be paid if lasting and comprehensive peace is not achieved. Continued instability has resulted in one of the world's worst and longest lasting humanitarian crises and left the region at risk of becoming a stronghold for terrorism and transnational criminal networks.
- (3) Ensuring long-term peace, security and stability and respect for human rights in the eastern provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in the region more generally, in line with an integrated approach, is a key priority for the Union. The Union is aware of the importance of the general elections called for December 2023.
- (4) On 13 February 2023, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (the 'High Representative') received a request from the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the Union to assist the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo with the procurement of key equipment and the construction of basic infrastructure under the EPF.
- (5) Assistance measures are to be implemented taking into account the principles and requirements set out in Decision (CFSP) 2021/509, in particular compliance with Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP ⁽²⁾, and in accordance with the rules for the implementation of revenue and expenditure financed under the EPF.
- (6) The implementation will also be subject to the regular assessment of political developments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in accordance with the integrated methodological framework for assessing and identifying the required mitigating measures and controls for assistance measures under the EPF.
- (7) The Council reaffirms its determination to protect, promote and vindicate human rights, fundamental freedoms and democratic principles and to strengthen the rule of law and good governance, in compliance with the United Nations Charter, with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and with international law, in particular international human rights law and international humanitarian law,

⁽¹⁾ Council Decision (CFSP) 2021/509 of 22 March 2021 establishing a European Peace Facility, and repealing Decision (CFSP) 2015/528 (OJ L 102, 24.3.2021, p. 14).

⁽²⁾ Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP of 8 December 2008 defining common rules governing control of exports of military technology and equipment (OJ L 335, 13.12.2008, p. 99).

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Establishment, objectives, scope and duration

1. An assistance measure benefiting the Democratic Republic of the Congo (the 'beneficiary') to be financed under the European Peace Facility (EPF) (the 'assistance measure') is hereby established.
2. The objective of the assistance measure is to strengthen the capabilities and the resilience of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in order to enable them to better defend the territorial integrity and the sovereignty of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to better protect the civilian population against, in particular, armed groups in the country's eastern provinces.
3. To achieve the objective set out in paragraph 2, the assistance measure shall finance the following components:
 - (a) individual equipment, not designed to deliver lethal force, for soldiers;
 - (b) collective equipment, not designed to deliver lethal force, at brigade, battalion and company level;
 - (c) infrastructure at brigade headquarters level.
4. The duration of the assistance measure shall be 48 months from the date of conclusion of the contract signed by the administrator for assistance measures, acting as authorising officer in accordance with Article 32(2), point (a), of Decision (CFSP) 2021/509. The implementation of the contract shall not start before 1 March 2024.

Article 2

Financial arrangements

1. The financial reference amount intended to cover the expenditure related to the assistance measure shall be EUR 20 000 000.
2. All expenditure shall be managed in accordance with Decision (CFSP) 2021/509 and the rules for the implementation of revenue and expenditure financed under the EPF.

Article 3

Arrangements with the beneficiary

1. The High Representative shall make the necessary arrangements with the beneficiary to ensure its compliance with the requirements and conditions established by this Decision as a condition for the provision of support under the assistance measure.
2. The arrangements referred to in paragraph 1 shall include provisions obliging the beneficiary to ensure:
 - (a) the compliance of the units of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo supported under the assistance measure with relevant international law, in particular international human rights law and international humanitarian law;
 - (b) the proper and efficient use of any assets provided under the assistance measure for the purposes for which they were provided;
 - (c) the sufficient maintenance of any assets provided under the assistance measure to ensure their usability and their operational availability over their life cycle;
 - (d) that any assets provided under the assistance measure will not be lost or transferred without the consent of the Facility Committee established by Decision (CFSP) 2021/509 to persons or entities other than those identified in those arrangements, at the end of their life-cycle.

3. The arrangements referred to in paragraph 1 shall include provisions on the suspension and termination of support under the assistance measure in the event of the beneficiary being found in breach of the obligations set out in paragraph 2.

Article 4

Implementation

1. The High Representative shall be responsible for ensuring the implementation of this Decision in accordance with Decision (CFSP) 2021/509 and with the rules for the implementation of revenue and expenditure financed under the EPF, in line with the Integrated Methodological Framework for assessing and identifying the required measures and controls for assistance measures under the EPF.
2. The implementation of the activities referred to in Article 1(3) shall be carried out by the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Belgium.

Article 5

Monitoring, control and evaluation

1. The High Representative shall monitor compliance by the beneficiary with the obligations set out in Article 3. That monitoring shall provide awareness of the context and the risks of breaches of the obligations established in accordance with Article 3, and shall contribute to the prevention of such breaches, including violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law by the units of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo supported under the assistance measure.
2. The post-shipment control of equipment and supplies shall be organised as follows:
 - (a) delivery verification, whereby EPF delivery certificates are to be signed by the end-user forces upon transfer of ownership;
 - (b) reporting, whereby the beneficiary is to report annually on the activities conducted with the equipment provided under the assistance measure and on the inventory of designated items until such reporting is no longer deemed necessary by the Political and Security Committee (PSC);
 - (c) on-site inspections, whereby the beneficiary is to grant the High Representative access to conduct on-site control upon request.
3. The High Representative shall conduct a final evaluation upon completion of the assistance measure to assess whether the assistance measure has contributed to reaching the objectives stated in Article 1(2).

Article 6

Reporting

During the period of implementation, the High Representative shall provide the PSC with six-monthly reports on the implementation of the assistance measure, in accordance with Article 63 of Decision (CFSP) 2021/509. The administrator for assistance measures shall inform the Facility Committee established by Decision (CFSP) 2021/509 on the implementation of revenue and expenditure in accordance with Article 38 of that Decision, including by providing information on the suppliers and subcontractors involved.

Article 7

Suspension and termination

1. The PSC may decide to suspend wholly or partially the implementation of the assistance measure in accordance with Article 64 of Decision (CFSP) 2021/509.
2. The PSC may also recommend that the Council terminate the assistance measure.

*Article 8***Entry into force**

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

Done at Brussels, 20 July 2023.

For the Council

The President

J. BORRELL FONTELLES

COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2023/1519
of 20 July 2023
amending Decision (CFSP) 2021/1277 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in
Lebanon

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Article 29 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy,

Whereas:

- (1) On 30 July 2021, the Council adopted Decision (CFSP) 2021/1277 ⁽¹⁾, which concerns restrictive measures in view of the situation in Lebanon.
- (2) Decision (CFSP) 2021/1277 applies until 31 July 2023. On the basis of a review of that Decision, the restrictive measures set out therein should be renewed until 31 July 2024.
- (3) Decision (CFSP) 2021/1277 should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

In Article 9 of Decision (CFSP) 2021/1277, the first paragraph is replaced by the following:

‘This Decision shall apply until 31 July 2024 and shall be kept under constant review. It shall be renewed, or amended as appropriate, if the Council deems that its objectives have not been met.’.

Article 2

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

Done at Brussels, 20 July 2023.

For the Council
The President
J. BORRELL FONTELLES

⁽¹⁾ Council Decision (CFSP) 2021/1277 of 30 July 2021 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Lebanon (OJ L 277 I, 2.8.2021, p. 16).

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION (EU) 2023/1520**of 17 July 2023****amending the Annex to Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/641 concerning emergency measures in relation to outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in certain Member States***(notified under document C(2023)4910)***(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 Article 259(1), point (c), thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) is an infectious viral disease in birds and may have a severe impact on the profitability of poultry farming causing disturbance to trade within the Union and exports to third countries. HPAI viruses can infect migratory birds, which can then spread these viruses over long distances during their autumn and spring migrations. Therefore, the presence of HPAI viruses in wild birds poses a continuous threat for the direct and indirect introduction of these viruses into establishments where poultry or captive birds are kept. In the event of an outbreak of HPAI, there is a risk that the disease agent may spread to other establishments where poultry or captive birds are kept.
- (2) Regulation (EU) 2016/429 establishes a new legislative framework for the prevention and control of diseases that are transmissible to animals or humans. HPAI falls within the definition of a listed disease in that Regulation, and it is subject to the disease prevention and control rules laid down therein. In addition, Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 ⁽²⁾ supplements Regulation (EU) 2016/429 as regards the rules for the prevention and control of certain listed diseases, including disease control measures for HPAI.
- (3) Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/641 ⁽³⁾ was adopted within the framework of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 and it lays down emergency measures at Union level in relation to outbreaks of HPAI.
- (4) More particularly, Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/641 provides that the protection, surveillance and further restricted zones established by the Member States following outbreaks of HPAI, in accordance with Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687, are to comprise at least the areas listed as protection, surveillance and further restricted zones in the Annex to that Implementing Decision.
- (5) The Annex to Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/641 was recently amended by Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2023/1337 ⁽⁴⁾ following outbreaks of HPAI in poultry or captive birds in France that needed to be reflected in that Annex.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 84, 31.3.2016, p. 1.

⁽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).

⁽³⁾ Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/641 of 16 April 2021 concerning emergency measures in relation to outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in certain Member States (OJ L 134, 20.4.2021, p. 166).

⁽⁴⁾ Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2023/1337 of 22 June 2023 amending the Annex to Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/641 concerning emergency measures in relation to outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in certain Member States (OJ L 166, 30.6.2023, p. 139).

- (6) Since the date of adoption of Implementing Decision (EU) 2023/1337, Denmark, Germany, France, Italy, Poland and Sweden have notified the Commission of outbreaks of HPAI in establishments where poultry or captive birds were kept, located in Nyborg Municipality in Denmark, in Schleswig-Holstein Land in Germany, in Pas-de-Calais, Landes and La Réunion departments in France, in Lombardia Region in Italy, in Małopolskie voivodeship in Poland and in Gotland municipality in Sweden.
- (7) The competent authorities of Denmark, Germany, France, Italy, Poland and Sweden have taken the necessary disease control measures required in accordance with Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687, including the establishment of protection and surveillance zones around the outbreaks.
- (8) In addition, the outbreak confirmed in Germany is located in close proximity to the border with Denmark. Accordingly, the competent authorities of Germany and Denmark have duly collaborated with regard to the establishment of the necessary surveillance zone in accordance with Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687, as the surveillance zone extends into the territory of Denmark.
- (9) The Commission has examined the disease control measures taken by Denmark, Germany, France, Italy, Poland and Sweden in collaboration with those Member States, and it is satisfied that the boundaries of the protection and surveillance zones established by the competent authorities of those Member States are at a sufficient distance from the establishments where the outbreaks of HPAI have been confirmed.
- (10) In the Annex to Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/641, there are currently no areas listed as protection zones for Germany and Poland, and no areas listed as protection and surveillance zones for Denmark, Italy and Sweden.
- (11) 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 at Union level, in collaboration with Denmark, Germany, France, Italy, Poland and Sweden, the protection and surveillance zones duly established by those Member States in accordance with Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687.
- (12) Therefore, the areas listed as protection and surveillance zones for France and the areas listed as surveillance zone for Germany and Poland in the Annex to Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/641 should be amended.
- (13) In addition, protection zones should be listed for Germany and Poland, and protection and surveillance zones should be listed for Denmark, Italy and Sweden in the Annex to Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/641.
- (14) Accordingly, the Annex to Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/641 should be amended to update regionalisation at Union level to take account of the protection and surveillance zones duly established by Denmark, Germany, France, Italy, Poland and Sweden and of the surveillance zone duly established by Denmark, in accordance with Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687, and the duration of the measures applicable therein.
- (15) Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/641 should therefore be amended accordingly.
- (16) Given the urgency of the epidemiological situation in the Union as regards the spread of HPAI, it is important that the amendments to be made to Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/641 by this Decision take effect as soon as possible.
- (17) 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) 2021/641 is replaced by the text set out in the Annex to this Decision.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 17 July 2023.

For the Commission
Stella KYRIAKIDES
Member of the Commission

ANNEX

‘ANNEX

Part A

Protection zones in the concerned Member States* as referred to in Articles 1 and 2:

Member State: Denmark

ADIS reference number of the outbreak	Area comprising:	Date until applicable in accordance with Article 39 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687
DK-HPAI(P)-2023-00004	The parts of Nyborg and Kerteminde municipality that are contained within a circle of radius 3 km, centered on GPS coordinates N 55.38149; E 10.6786	3.8.2023

Member State: Germany

ADIS reference number of the outbreak	Area comprising:	Date until applicable in accordance with Article 39 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687
SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN		
DE-HPAI(P)-2023-00027	Kreis Schleswig-Flensburg 3 km Radius um den Ausbruchsbetrieb mit den GPS-Koordinaten: 9.567511/54.785588. Betroffen sind die Gemeinden oder Teile der Gemeinden Hürup, Husby, Maasbüll, Grundhof, Munkbrarup, Ringsberg, Wees.	31.7.2023

Member State: France

ADIS reference number of the outbreak	Area comprising:	Date until applicable in accordance with Article 39 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687
Department: Landes (40)		
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00067	Aire-sur-l'Adour	10.7.2023
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00082	Arboucave	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00083	Artassenx	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00084	Bahus-Soubiran	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00089	Bascons	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00091	Bats	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00097	Benquet	

ADIS reference number of the outbreak	Area comprising:	Date until applicable in accordance with Article 39 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00098	Bordères-et-Lamensans	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00099	Bourdalat	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00117	Bretagne-de-Marsan	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00118	Buanes	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00119	Castandet	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00120	Castelnau-Tursan	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00121	Cazères-sur-l'Adour	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00125	Classun	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00126	Clèdes	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00129	Duhort-Bachen	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00131	Eugénie-les-Bains	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00136	Fargues	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00137	Geaune	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00138	Grenade-sur-l'Adour	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00142	Hontanx	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00143	Labastide-d'Armagnac	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00148	Lacajunte	
	Lagrange	
	Larrivière-Saint-Savin	
	Latrille	
	Lussagnet	
	Mauries	
	Maurrin	
	Mauvezin-d'Armagnac	
	Miramont-Sensacq	
	Montgaillard	
	Montsoué	
	Payros-Cazautets	
	Pécorade	
	Philondenx	
	Pimbo	
	Puyol-Cazalet	
	Renung	
	Saint-Agnet	
	Saint-Gein	
	Saint-Loubouer	

ADIS reference number of the outbreak	Area comprising:	Date until applicable in accordance with Article 39 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687
	Saint-Maurice-sur-Adour Saint-Sever (Est D933.S) Samadet Sarron Sorbets Urgons Vielle-Tursan Le Vignau	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00151	CARCARE SAINTE CROIX CARCEN PONSON SAINT YAGUEN	3.8.2023
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00152	DOAZIT HAURIET LARBÉY MAYLIS MONTAUT SAINT AUBIN	3.8.2023
Department: Pas-de-Calais (62)		
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00150	AIRON-NOTRE-DAME AIRON-SAINT-VAAST CAMPIGNEULLES-LES-GRANDES SAINT-AUBIN SORRUS	25.7.2023
Department: La Réunion (974)		
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00153	SAINT LOUIS L'ETANG SALE SAINT PIERRE VILLE	1.8.2023

Member State: Italy

ADIS reference number of the outbreak	Area comprising:	Date until applicable in accordance with Article 39 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687
IT-HPAI(P)-2023-00011	The area of the parts of Lombardia Region contained within a circle of radius of three kilometres, centred on WGS84 dec coordinates Lat. 45.154119, Long. 9.371134	9.8.2023

Member State: Poland

ADIS reference number of the outbreak	Area comprising:	Date until applicable in accordance with Article 39 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687
PL-HPAI(P)-2023-00069	W województwie małopolskim: — część gmin: Kocmyrzów – Luborzyca, m.Kraków w promieniu 3 km od współrzędnych GPS: 50.12038/20.11711	25.7.2023

Member State: Sweden

ADIS reference number of the outbreak	Area comprising:	Date until applicable in accordance with Article 39 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687
SE-HPAI(P)-2023-00002	Those parts of the municipality of Gotland contained within a circle of a radius of three kilometres, centred on WGS84 dec. coordinates N 57.4830 and E 18.2211	21.7.2023

Part B

Surveillance zones in the concerned Member States* as referred to in Articles 1 and 3:

Member State: Denmark

ADIS reference number of the outbreak	Area comprising:	Date until applicable in accordance with Article 55 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687
DE-HPAI (P)-2023-00027	The parts of Sønderborg and Aabenraa municipalities that are part of the German zone within the circle of radius 10 kilometres, centred on GPS coordinates: N 54.78559; E 9.567011	9.8.2023
DK-HPAI(P)-2023-00004	The parts of Nyborg, Kerteminde, Odense and Faaborg-Midtfyn municipalities beyond the area described in the protection zone and within the circle of radius 10 kilometres, centred on GPS coordinates N 55.38149; E 10.6786	12.8.2023
	The parts of Nyborg and Kerteminde municipality that are contained within a circle of radius 3 km, centered on GPS coordinates N 55.38149; E 10.6786	4.8.2023 – 12.8.2023

Member State: Germany

ADIS reference number of the outbreak	Area comprising:	Date until applicable in accordance with Article 55 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687
SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN		
DE-HPAI (P)-2023-00027	Kreis Schleswig-Flensburg und Stadt Flensburg 10 km Radius um den Ausbruchsbetrieb mit den GPS-Koordinaten: 9.567511/54.785588. Betroffen sind die Städte/Gemeinden oder Teile der Städte/Gemeinden: Stadt Flensburg, Stadt Glücksburg, Handewitt, Ausacker, Freienwill, Großsolt, Hürup, Husby, Maasbüll, Tastrup, Dollerup, Grundhof, Langballig, Munkbrarup, Ringsberg, Westerholz, Wees, Sörup, Mittelangeln, Oeversee, Steinbergkirche.	9.8.2023
	Kreis Schleswig-Flensburg 3 km Radius um den Ausbruchsbetrieb mit den GPS-Koordinaten: 9.567511/54.785588. Betroffen sind die Gemeinden oder Teile der Gemeinden Hürup, Husby, Maasbüll, Grundhof, Munkbrarup, Ringsberg, Wees.	1.8.2023 – 9.8.2023

Member State: France

ADIS reference number of the outbreak	Area comprising:	Date until applicable in accordance with Article 55 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687
Département: Gers (32)		
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00065	"AUJAN-MOURNEDE	21.7.2023
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00068	ZP à l'ouest de route entre «Le Rentier» et «Le Sage»	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00069	ZS à l'est de cette même route"	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00070	"SAINT-BLANCARD	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00066	ZS à l'Ouest des routes D 139 et D576	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00071	ZRS à l'Est"	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00072	ARMENTIEUX	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00073	ARMOUS-ET-CAU	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00074	ARROUEDE	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00075	AUSSOS	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00076	BARCUGNAN	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00077	BARRAN	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00078	BARS	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00079	BASSOUES	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00080	BAZIAN	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00081	BAZUGUES	

ADIS reference number of the outbreak	Area comprising:	Date until applicable in accordance with Article 55 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00085	BELLEGARDE	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00088	BELLOC-SAINT-CLAMENS	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00090	BERDOUES	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00092	BETCAVE-AGUIN	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00093	BEZOLLES	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00094	BEZUES-BAJON	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00095	BIRAN	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00096	BRETAGNE-D'ARMAGNAC	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00100	CABAS-LOUMASSES	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00101	CAILLAVET	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00102	CALLIAN	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00103	CANNET	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00104	CASTELNAU D'AUZAN LABARRÈRE	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00105	CASTEX-D'ARMAGNAC	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00106	CAZAUX-D'ANGLES	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00107	CAZENEUVE	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00108	CHELAN	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00109	CLERMONT-POUYGUILLES	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00110	COURRENSAN	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00111	CUELAS	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00112	DUFFORT	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00113	DURBAN	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00114	ESTIPOUY	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00115	GALIAX	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00116	GAZAX-ET-BACCARISSE	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00122	GONDRIN	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00123	GOUX	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00124	IDRAC-RESPAILLES	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00127	JU-BELLOC	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00128	JUSTIAN	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00130	L'ISLE-DE-NOE	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00132	LABEJAN	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00133	LADEVEZE-VILLE	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00134	LAGRAULET-DU-GERS	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00139	LALANNE-ARQUE	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00141	LAMAGUERE	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00140	LANNEMAIGNAN	

ADIS reference number of the outbreak	Area comprising:	Date until applicable in accordance with Article 55 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00144 FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00145 FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00146 FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00149 FR-HPAI(NON-P)-2023-00376	LANNEPAX LAVERAET LE BROUILH-MONBERT LOUBERSAN LOUSLITGES MANAS-BASTANOUS MANENT-MONTANE MARAMBAT MARCIAC MASCARAS MAUMUSSON-LAGUIAN MEILHAN MIRANDE MIRANNES MONCASSIN MONCLAR-SUR-LOSSE MONCORNEIL-GRAZAN MONFERRAN-PLAVES MONGUILHEM MONLAUR-BERNET MONLEZUN MONT-D'ASTARAC MONT-DE-MARRAST MONTIES MOUCHES MOUREDE NOULENS ORNEZAN PANASSAC PLAISANCE PONSAMPERE PONSAN-SOUBIRAN POUYLEBON PRECHAC-SUR-ADOUR PROJAN RAMOUZENS RICOURT	

ADIS reference number of the outbreak	Area comprising:	Date until applicable in accordance with Article 55 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687
	ROQUEBRUNE ROQUES ROZES SADEILLAN SAINT-CHRISTAUD SAINT-JEAN-POUTGE SAINT-JUSTIN SAINT-MARTIN SAINT-MEDARD SAINT-PAUL-DE-BAISE SAINTE-DODE SAMARAN SARRAGUZAN SCIEURAC-ET-FLOURES SEISSAN SERE TACHOIRES TIESTE-URAGNOUX TUDELLE	
	AIGNAN ARBLADE-LE-BAS ARBLADE-LE-HAUT AURENSAN AVERON-BERGELLE AYZIEU BARCELONNE-DU-GERS BASCOUS BEAUMARCHES BELMONT BERNEDE BETOUS BOURROUILLAN BOUZON-GELLENAVE CAHUZAC-SUR-ADOUR CAMPAGNE-D'ARMAGNAC CASTELNAU-D'ANGLES CASTELNAVET	6.7.2023 – 21.7.2023

ADIS reference number of the outbreak	Area comprising:	Date until applicable in accordance with Article 55 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687
	CASTILLON-DEBATS CAUMONT CAUPENNE-D'ARMAGNAC CAZAUBON CORNEILLAN COULOUME-MONDEBAT COURTIES CRAVENCERES DEMU EAUZE ESCLASSAN-LABASTIDE ESPAS ESTANG FUSTEROUAU GEE-RIVIERE IZOTGES JUILLAC LABARTHE LABARTHETE LADEVEZE-RIVIERE LAGARDE-HACHAN LANNE-SOUBIRAN LANNUX LAREE LASSERADE LAUJUZAN LE HOUGA LELIN-LAPUJOLLE LIAS-D'ARMAGNAC LOUBEDAT LOURTIES-MONBRUN LOUSSOUS-DEBAT LUPIAC LUPPE-VIOLLES MAGNAN MANCIET MARGOUET-MEYMES	

ADIS reference number of the outbreak	Area comprising:	Date until applicable in accordance with Article 55 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687
	MARGUESTAU MASSEUBE MAULEON-D'ARMAGNAC MAULICHERES MAUPAS MONCLAR MONLEZUN-D'ARMAGNAC MONTAUT MONTESQUIOU MORMES NOGARO PANJAS PERCHEDE PEYRUSSE-GRANDE PEYRUSSE-VIEILLE POUY-LOUBRIN POUYDRAGUIN PRENERON REANS RIGUEPEU RISCLE SABAZAN SAINT-ARAILLES SAINT-ARROMAN SAINT-AUNIX-LENGROS SAINT-ELIX-THEUX SAINT-GERME SAINT-GRIEDE SAINT-MARTIN-D'ARMAGNAC SAINT-MICHEL SAINT-MONT SAINT-OST SAINT-PIERRE-D'AUBEZIES SAINTE-AURENCE-CAZAUX SAINTE-CHRISTIE-D'ARMAGNAC SALLES-D'ARMAGNAC SARRAGACHIES	

ADIS reference number of the outbreak	Area comprising:	Date until applicable in accordance with Article 55 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687
	SAUVIAC SEAILLES SEGOS SION SORBETS TARSAC TASQUE TERMES-D'ARMAGNAC TOUJOUSE TOURDUN URGOSSE VERGOIGNAN VERLUS VIC-FEZENSAC VIELLA VIOZAN "AUJAN-MOURNEDE ZP à l'ouest de route entre «Le Rentier» et «Le Sage» ZS à l'est de cette même route"	

Département: Landes (40)

FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00067	Amou	19.7.2023
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00082	Arsague	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00083	Arthez-d'Armagnac	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00084	Aubagnan	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00089	Audignon	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00091	Aurice	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00097	Banos	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00098	Bas-Mauco	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00099	Betbezer-d'Armagnac	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00117	Beyries	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00118	Bonnegarde	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00119	Bougue	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00120	Brassempouy	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00121	Castaignos-Souslens	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00125	Castel-Sarrazin	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00126	Cauna	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00129	Coudures	

ADIS reference number of the outbreak	Area comprising:	Date until applicable in accordance with Article 55 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00131 FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00136 FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00137 FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00138 FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00142 FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00143 FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00148	Créon-d'Armagnac Dumes Escalans Estigarde Eyres-Moncube Le Frêche Gabarret Gaujacq Hagetmau Haut-Mauco Herré Horsarrieu Laglorieuse Lamothe Lauret Mant Marpaps Mazerolles Monget Monségur Mont-de-Marsan Montégut Mouscardès Nassiet Ossages Parleboscq Perquie Pomarez Pujo-le-Plan Sainte-Colombe Saint-Cricq-Villeneuve Saint-Julien-d'Armagnac Saint-Justin Saint-Perdon Saint-Pierre-du-Mont Saint-Sever (Ouest D933.S) Sarraziet	

ADIS reference number of the outbreak	Area comprising:	Date until applicable in accordance with Article 55 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687
	Serres-Gaston Tilh Villeneuve-de-Marsan	
	Aire-sur-l'Adour Arboucave Artassenx Bahus-Soubiran Bascons Bats Benquet Bordères-et-Lamensans Bourdalat Bretagne-de-Marsan Buanes Castandet Castelnau-Tursan Cazères-sur-l'Adour Classun Clèdes Duhort-Bachen Eugénie-les-Bains Fargues Geaune Grenade-sur-l'Adour Hontanx Labastide-d'Armagnac Lacajunte Lagrange Larrivière-Saint-Savin Latrille Lussagnet Mauries Maurrin Mauvezin-d'Armagnac Miramont-Sensacq Montgaillard Montsoué	11.7.2023 – 19.7.2023

ADIS reference number of the outbreak	Area comprising:	Date until applicable in accordance with Article 55 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687
	Payros-Cazautets Pécorade Philondenx Pimbo Puyol-Cazalet Renung Saint-Agnet Saint-Gein Saint-Loubouer Saint-Maurice-sur-Adour Saint-Sever (Est D933.S) Samadet Sarron Sorbets Urgons Vielle-Tursan Le Vignau	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00151 FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00152	Audignon Audon Aurice Baigts Banos Bastennes Bégaar Bergouey Beylongue Brassempouy Campagne Cauna Caupenne Cazalis Donzacq Gaujacq Gouts Lahosse Laurède Lesgor	12.8.2023

ADIS reference number of the outbreak	Area comprising:	Date until applicable in accordance with Article 55 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687
	Le Leuy Lourquen Meilhan Momuy Mugron Nerbis Ousse-Suzan Rion-des-Landes Sainte-Colombe Saint-Cricq-Chalosse Villenave Ygos-Saint-Saturnin	
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00151	CARCARE SAINTE CROIX CARCEN PONSON SAINT YAGUEN	4.8.2023 – 12.8.2023
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00152	DOAZIT HAURIET LARBET MAYLIS MONTAUT SAINT AUBIN	4.8.2023 – 12.8.2023
Department: Lot-et-Garonne (47)		
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00104	SAINTE MAURE DE PEYRIAC SAINT PE SAINT SIMON	21.7.2023
Department: Pas-de-Calais (62)		
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00150	ATTIN BEAUMERIE-SAINT-MARTIN BERCK BEUTIN	3.8.2023
	BOISJEAN BREXENT-ENOCQ LA CALOTTERIE CAMPIGNEULLES-LES-PETITES CONCHIL-LE-TEMPLE CUCQ ECUIRES	26.7.2023 – 3.8.2023

ADIS reference number of the outbreak	Area comprising:	Date until applicable in accordance with Article 55 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687
	ETAPLES GROFFLIERS LEPINE LA MADELAINE-SOUS-MONTREUIL MERLIMONT MONTREUIL NEMPONT-SAINT-FIRMIN NEUVILLE-SOUS-MONTREUIL RANG-DU-FLIERS SAINT-JOSSE TIGNY-NOYELLE LE TOUQUET-PARIS-PLAGE TUBERSENT VERTON WABEN WAILLY-BEAUCAMP	
Department: Hautes-Pyrénées (65)		
FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00141 FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00147	ARNE AURIEBAT BARTHE BAZORDAN BETPOUY CASTELNAU-MAGNOAC CASTELNAU-RIVIERE-BASSE CASTERETS CAUBOUS CAUSSADE-RIVIERE CIZOS ESTIRAC FONTRAILLES GAUSSAN GUIZERIX HACHAN HERES LABATUT-RIVIERE LARAN LARROQUE	14.7.2023

ADIS reference number of the outbreak	Area comprising:	Date until applicable in accordance with Article 55 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687
	LASSALES MADIRAN MAUBOURGUET MONLONG ORGAN PEYRET-SAINT-ANDRE PUNTOUS SABARROS SADOURNIN SAINT-LANNE SAUVETERRE TRIE-SUR-BAISE VIEUZOS	
	ARIES-ESPENAN BETBEZE DEVEZE LALANNE MONLEON-MAGNOAC POUY SARIAC-MAGNOAC THERMES-MAGNOAC VILLEMUR	6.7.2023 – 14.7.2023

Department: La Réunion (974)

FR-HPAI(P)-2023-00153	LES AVIRONS ENTRE DEUX TAMPON VILLE SAINT PIERRE RDC SAINT LEU PITON	10.8.2023
	SAINT LOUIS L'ETANG SALE SAINT PIERRE VILLE	2.8.2023 – 10.8.2023

Member State: Italy

ADIS reference number of the outbreak	Area comprising:	Date until applicable in accordance with Article 55 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687
IT-HPAI(P)-2023-00011	The area of the parts of Lombardia Region extending beyond the area described in the protection zone and contained within a circle of radius of ten kilometres, centred on WGS84 dec coordinates Lat. 45.154119, Long. 9.371134	19.8.2023
	The area of the parts of Lombardia Region contained within a circle of radius of three kilometres, centred on WGS84 dec coordinates Lat. 45.154119, Long. 9.371134	10.8.2023 – 19.8.2023

Member State: Poland

ADIS reference number of the outbreak	Area comprising:	Date until applicable in accordance with Article 55 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687
PL-HPAI(P)-2023-00069	W województwie małopolskim: — część gmin: Iglomia – Wawrzeńczyce, Kocmyrzów – Luborzyca, Słomniki, Michałowice, Zielonki, Koniusza, Wieliczka, Niepołomice, m. Kraków w promieniu 10 km od współrzędnych GPS: 50.12038/20.11711	3.8.2023
	W województwie małopolskim: — część gmin: Kocmyrzów – Luborzyca, m. Kraków w promieniu 3 km od współrzędnych GPS: 50.12038/20.11711	26.7.2023 – 3.8.2023

Member State: Sweden

ADIS reference number of the outbreak	Area comprising:	Date until applicable in accordance with Article 55 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687
SE-HPAI(P)-2023-00002	The area of the parts of the municipality of Gotland extending beyond the area described in the protection zone and within the circle of a radius of 10 kilometres, centred on WGS84 dec. coordinates N 57.4830 and E 18.2211	30.7.2023
	Those parts of the municipality of Gotland contained within a circle of a radius of three kilometres, centred on WGS84 dec. coordinates N 57.4830 and E 18.2211	22.7.2023 – 30.7.2023

Part C

Further restricted zones in the concerned Member States* as referred to in Articles 1 and 3a:

Member State: France

Area comprising:	Date until measures are to remain applicable in accordance with Article 3a
<i>Les communes suivantes dans le département: Cher (18)</i>	
GENOUILLY GRACAY SAINT-OUTRILLE	11.7.2023
<i>Les communes suivantes dans le département: Gers (32)</i>	
ANTRAS AUCH AUTERIVE AUX-AUSSAT AYGUETINTE BEAUCAIRE BEAUMONT BECCAS BETPLAN BLOUSSON-SERIAN BONAS BOUCAGNERES BOULAU CASSAIGNE CASTELNAU-BARBARENS CASTERA-VERDUZAN CASTEX CASTIN CAZAUX-VILLECOMTAL DURAN ESTAMPES FAGET-ABBATIAL FOURCES GAUJAC GAUJAN HAGET HAULIES JEGUN LAAS	21.7.2023

Area comprising:	Date until measures are to remain applicable in accordance with Article 3a
LAGARDERE	
LAGUIAN-MAZOUS	
LAMAZERE	
LARROQUE-SAINT-SERNIN	
LARTIGUE	
LASSERAN	
LASSEUBE-PROPRE	
LAURAET	
MAIGNAUT-TAUZIA	
MALABAT	
MANSENCOME	
MARSEILLAN	
MIELAN	
MIRAMONT-D'ASTARAC	
MONBARDON	
MONGAUSY	
MONPARDIAC	
MONTEGUT-ARROS	
MONTREAL	
MOUCHAN	
ORBESSAN	
ORDAN-LARROQUE	
PALLANNE	
PAVIE	
PELLEFIGUE	
PESSAN	
SABAILLAN	
SAINT-ELIX	
SAINT-JEAN-LE-COMTAL	
SAINT-LARY	
SAINT-MAUR	
SAINT-PUY	
SANSAN	
SARAMON	
SARCOS	
SEMBOUES	
SEMEZIES-CACHAN	
SIMORRE	

Area comprising:	Date until measures are to remain applicable in accordance with Article 3a
TILLAC TOURNAN TRAVERSERES TRONCENS VALENCE-SUR-BAISE VILLECOMTAL-SUR-ARROS VILLEFRANCHE "SAINT-BLANCARD ZS à l'Ouest des routes D 139 et D576 ZRS à l'Est" SADEILLAN SAINT-ARAILLES SAINT-BLANCARD	
<i>Les communes suivantes dans le département: Landes (40)</i>	
Argelos Baigts Bassercles Bastennes Baudignan Bergouey Bostens Campagne Campet-et-Lamolère Castelnau-Chalosse Castelner Caupenne Cazalis Clermont Doazit Donzacq Estibeaux Gaillères Garrey Gibret Gouts Habas Hauriet Labastide-Chalosse	19.7.2023

Area comprising:	Date until measures are to remain applicable in accordance with Article 3a
Labatut	
Lacquy	
Lacrabe	
Lahosse	
Larbey	
Le Leuy	
Losse	
Lubbon	
Lucbardez et Bargues	
Maylis	
Meilhan	
Mimbaste	
Misson	
Momuy	
Montaut	
Montfort-en-Chalosse	
Morganx	
Mugron	
Nerbis	
Nousse	
Ozourt	
Peyre	
Poudenx	
Pouillon	
Pouydesseaux	
Poyartin	
Rimbez-et-Baudiets	
Roquefort	
Saint-Aubin	
Saint-Avit	
Saint-Cricq-Chalosse	
Saint-Cricq-du-Gave	
Sainte-Foy	
Saint-Gor	
Saint-Martin-d'Oney	
Sarbazan	
Serreslous-et-Arribans	
Sorde-l'Abbaye	

Area comprising:	Date until measures are to remain applicable in accordance with Article 3a
Sort-en-Chalosse Souprosse Toulouzette Uchacq-et-Parentis Vielle-Soubiran	
<i>Les communes suivantes dans le département: Lot-et-Garonne (47)</i>	
SAINTE MAURE DE PEYRIAC SAINT PE SAINT SIMON	21.7.2023
<i>Les communes suivantes dans le département: Pyrénées-Atlantiques(64)</i>	
AAST ABIDOS ABOS ANGAIS ANOYE ARBUS ARNOS ARRICAU-BORDES ARROS-DE-NAY ARTHEZ-DE-BEARN ARTIGUELOUVE ARTIX ARZACQ-ARRAZIGUET AUBERTIN AUGA BALEIX BALIROS BARZUN BASSILLON-VAUZE BAUDREIX BEDEILLE BENEJACQ BENTAYOU-SEREE BESINGRAND BETRACQ BEUSTE BOEIL-BEZING BORDERES BORDES	14.7.2023

Area comprising:	Date until measures are to remain applicable in accordance with Article 3a
BOSDARROS	
BOUEILH-BOUEILHO-LASQUE	
BOUILLON	
BOUMOURT	
BOURDETTES	
BUROSSE-MENDOUSSE	
CABIDOS	
CARRERE	
CASTILLON (CANTON D'ARTHEZ-DE-BEARN)	
CASTILLON (CANTON DE LEMBEYE)	
CLARACQ	
CORBERE-ABERES	
COSLEDAA-LUBE-BOAST	
COUBLUCQ	
CUQUERON	
DOAZON	
ESCURES	
ESLOURENTIES-DABAN	
ESPOEY	
FICHOUS-RIUMAYOU	
GAN	
GARLEDE-MONDEBAT	
GAROS	
GAYON	
GELOS	
GER	
GERDEREST	
GEUS-D'ARZACQ	
GOMER	
HOURS	
JURANCON	
LABASTIDE-CEZERACQ	
LACOMMANDE	
LACQ	
LAGOS	
LAHOURCADE	
LALONGUE	
LALONQUETTE	

Area comprising:	Date until measures are to remain applicable in accordance with Article 3a
LANNECAUBE	
LARREULE	
LASSERRE	
LASSEUBE	
LEMBEYE	
LEME	
LESPIELLE	
LIMENDOUS	
LIVRON	
LOMBIA	
LOURENTIES	
LOUVIGNY	
LUC-ARMAU	
TROIS-VILLES	
PEYRET-SAINT-ANDRE	
PEYRUN	
MASPIE-LALONQUERE-JUILLACQ	
MAURE	
MAZERES-LEZONS	
MERACQ	
MIALOS	
MIOSENS-LANUSSE	
MIREPEIX	
MOMY	
MONCAUP	
MONEIN	
MONPEZAT	
MORLANNE	
MOUHOUS	
MOURENX	
NARCASTET	
NAY	
NOGUERES	
NOUSTY	
OS-MARSILLON	
PARBAYSE	
PARDIES	
PARDIES-PIETAT	

Area comprising:	Date until measures are to remain applicable in accordance with Article 3a
PEYRELONGUE-ABOS PIETS-PLASENCE-MOUSTROU POMPS PONSON-DEBAT-POUTS PONSON-DESSUS PONTIACQ-VIELLEPINTE POULIACQ POURSIUGUES-BOUCOUE RIBARROUY RONTIGNON SAINT-ABIT SAINT-FAUST SAMSONS-LION SAUBOLE SEDZE-MAUBECQ SEMEACQ-BLACHON SERRES-SAINT-MARIE SIMACOURBE SOUMOULOU TARON-SADIRAC-VIELLENAVE TARSACQ THEZE URDES UROST UZAN UZOS VIALER VIGNES	
<i>Les communes suivantes dans le département: Hautes-Pyrénées (65)</i>	
ANSOST ARNE ARTAGNAN AURIEBAT BARBACHEN BARTHE BAZORDAN BETPOUY BUZON	14.7.2023

Area comprising:	Date until measures are to remain applicable in accordance with Article 3a
CAIXON	
CASTELNAU-MAGNOAC	
CASTELNAU-RIVIERE-BASSE	
CASTERETS	
CAUBOUS	
CAUSSADE-RIVIERE	
CIZOS	
ESCAUNETS	
ESTIRAC	
FONTRAILLES	
GARDERES	
GAUSSAN	
GENSAC	
GUIZERIX	
HACHAN	
HAGEDET	
HERES	
LABATUT-RIVIERE	
LAFITOLE	
LAHITTE-TOUPIERE	
LARAN	
LARREULE	
LARROQUE	
LASCAZERES	
LASSALES	
LIAC	
LUQUET	
MADIRAN	
MAUBOURGUET	
MONFAUCON	
MONLONG	
NOUILHAN	
ORGAN	
OROIX	
PEYRET-SAINT-ANDRE	
PUNTOUS	
RABASTENS-DE-BIGORRE	
SABARROS	

Area comprising:	Date until measures are to remain applicable in accordance with Article 3a
SADOURNIN SAINT-LANNE SARRIAC-BIGORRE SAUVETERRE SEGALAS SERON SOMBRUN SOUBLECAUSE TRIE-SUR-BAISE VIC-EN-BIGORRE VIDOUZE VIEUZOS VILLEFRANQUE VILLENAVE-PRES-BEARN	

* In accordance with the Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community, and in particular Article 5(4) of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland in conjunction with Annex 2 to that Protocol, for the purposes of this Annex, references to Member State include the United Kingdom in respect of Northern Ireland.'

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION (EU) 2023/1521**of 19 July 2023****concerning certain special disease control measures for a limited period of time relating to infection with lumpy skin disease virus in certain Member States***(notified under document C(2023) 4811)***(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 Article 71(3), point (a), thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Infection with lumpy skin disease (LSD) virus, caused by lumpy skin disease virus (LSDV), is a vector-borne disease of bovine animals that causes substantial economic losses, reduces milk yield, causes severe emaciation, permanent damage to hides, several secondary complications, months-long chronic debility, and incurs trade bans. The disease is endemic in Africa and is included in the World Organisation for Animal Health list of notifiable diseases.
- (2) LSD occurred in the Union for the first time in 2015 in Greece. In 2016, the disease quickly spread in many countries of South East Europe including Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Kosovo *, North Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. In all affected countries the disease was placed effectively under control through mass vaccination of bovine animals, with live homologous vaccines, repeated on an annual basis, in accordance with vaccines' specifications. In addition, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, that were not affected by LSD, implemented vaccination as a preventive measure, in view of disease occurrence in neighbouring countries.
- (3) Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1070 ⁽²⁾ was adopted within the framework of Regulation (EU) 2016/429, and it lays down special control measures against LSD for a limited period of time. That Implementing Regulation applied until 21 April 2023.
- (4) More particularly, Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1070, defines the zones of a Member State, where vaccination against LSD is carried out, and the special disease control rules within each zone. These zones are classified as restricted zone I, located outside an area where an outbreak of infection with LSDV has been confirmed, and restricted zone II, which includes an area where an outbreak of infection with LSDV has been confirmed.
- (5) Furthermore, Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1070, provided for restrictions regarding the movements of bovine animals and products thereof, germinal products, and animal by-products from restricted zone I and II, and derogations in relation to these restrictions. In addition, it provided rules for the operators' obligations with regard to animal health certificates for movements of bovine animals, germinal products and unprocessed animal by-products thereof, from restricted zones I and II, outside these zones.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 84, 31.3.2016, p. 1.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

⁽²⁾ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1070 of 28 June 2021 laying down special control measures for a limited period of time related to infection with lumpy skin disease virus (OJ L 230, 30.6.2021, p. 10).

- (6) Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/361 ⁽³⁾, entered into force on 12 March 2023, and it lays down rules for the use of certain veterinary medicinal products for the purpose of prevention and control of certain listed diseases, including rules for vaccination against LSD. In addition, Article 9 of that Delegated Regulation and Annex IX thereto provide for the establishment of vaccination zones I and II that correspond to the restricted zones I and II of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1070.
- (7) In addition, Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/361 lays down rules and restrictions in relation to bovine animals vaccinated for LSD, their germinal products and unprocessed animal by-products thereof that correspond to the rules and restrictions laid down in Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1070, except for those related to the operators' obligations with regard to animal health certificates.
- (8) Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/361 also provides for recovery periods for LSD, following emergency protective vaccination, that range between 8 and 26 months, depending on the type of surveillance, the vaccination zone, and the time of the slaughter or killing of the last LSD case and/or the time of the last vaccination.
- (9) Since 2017, no LSD outbreaks have been reported in Europe although LSD was recorded until 2021 in parts of Anatolia, Türkiye and remains present in Russia while it continues to spread in Asia, affecting countries of the Indian subcontinent, East Asia and South East Asia. In view of the favourable epidemiological situation in Europe, all countries in South East Europe that implemented vaccination against LSD have now ceased, except for Bulgaria, Greece and Türkiye.
- (10) Bulgaria and Greece have already submitted their 2023 LSD vaccination programmes to the Commission, and these have already been evaluated and approved, in the framework of Regulation (EU) 2021/690 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽⁴⁾. The nature and content of the technical evaluation and approval of those vaccination programmes also fulfil the requirements of the official vaccination plan for the prevention and control of category A diseases in terrestrial animals laid down in Article 6 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/361.
- (11) In view of the expiry of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1070, it is essential to list the areas defined as vaccination zones I and II in relation to LSD, in Bulgaria and Greece, that correspond to the restricted zones I and II of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1070, and to lay down additional rules regarding the operators' obligations with regard to animal health certificates for movements of bovine animals, as well as those for germinal products and unprocessed animal by-products thereof, from vaccination zones I and II, outside these zones, to ensure that these animal health certificates provide adequate and accurate health information and there is a continuity with the measures previously in place.
- (12) Taking into account the LSD vaccination plans of Bulgaria and Greece for 2023, the epidemiological situation as regards that disease in the Union, and the recovery period for LSD, as laid down in Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/361, this Decision should apply until 31 August 2024,
- (13) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed,

⁽³⁾ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/361 of 28 November 2022 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and the Council as regards rules for the use of certain veterinary medicinal products for the purpose of prevention and control of certain listed diseases (OJ L 52, 20.2.2023, p. 1).

⁽⁴⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/690 of the European Parliament and the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing a programme for the internal market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, the area of plants, animals, food and feed, and European statistics (Single Market Programme) and repealing Regulations (EU) No 99/2013, (EU) No 1287/2013, (EU) No 254/2014 and (EU) No 652/2014 (OJ L 153, 3.5.2021, p. 1).

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Subject matter and scope

This Decision establishes at Union level:

- (a) vaccination zones I and II, in relation to emergency protective vaccination against lumpy skin disease in kept terrestrial animals, that are required to be established in accordance with Article 9(1), point (b)(i), of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/361, and Annex IX, Part 1, thereto;
- (b) operators' obligations with regard to animal health certificates for movements of the following consignments from vaccination zones I and II outside those zones, in accordance with the derogations for such movements provided for in Article 13(2), (3) and (4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/361, and the specific conditions laid down in Annex IX, Part 3, thereto:
 - (i) bovine animals;
 - (ii) germinal products of bovine animals;
 - (iii) unprocessed animal by-products.

Article 2

Establishment of vaccination zones I and II

Member States implementing emergency protective vaccination against lumpy skin disease shall ensure that:

- (a) vaccination zones I and II are established immediately by their competent authorities, in accordance with:
 - (i) the rules for the implementation of emergency protective vaccination laid down in Article 9 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/361;
 - (ii) the specific conditions for the implementation of emergency protective vaccination for the prevention and control of lumpy skin disease laid down in Annex IX, to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/361;
- (b) the vaccination zones I and II comprise at least the areas listed in the Annex to this Decision.

Article 3

Operators' obligations with regard to animal health certificates for movements of consignments of bovine animals from vaccination zones I and II outside those zones

Operators shall only move consignments of bovine animals from vaccination zones I and II outside those zones within the same Member State or to another Member State if the animals to be moved, in accordance with the derogation for such movements laid down in Article 13(2) of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/361, and the specific conditions laid down in Annex IX, Part 3, thereto, are accompanied by an animal health certificate issued by the competent authority of the Member State of origin in accordance with Article 149(1) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429, that contains at least one of the following attestations:

- (a) 'Bovine animals from vaccination zone I in relation to emergency protective vaccination against lumpy skin disease, in compliance with Article 13(2) of, and Annex IX, Part 3, point (3.1), to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/361.;

- (b) 'Bovine animals from vaccination zone II in relation to emergency protective vaccination against lumpy skin disease, in compliance with Article 13(2) of, and Annex IX, Part 3, point (3.2), to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/361.';
- (c) 'Bovine animals from vaccination zone...(I or II, indicate as appropriate) in relation to emergency protective vaccination against lumpy skin disease, in compliance with Article 13(2) of, and Annex IX, Part 3, point (3.3), to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/361.'.

However, in the case of movements within the same Member State, the competent authority may decide that an animal health certificate does not have to be issued as referred to in the second subparagraph of Article 143(2) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429.

Article 4

Operators' obligations with regard to animal health certificates for movements of consignments of germinal products obtained from bovine animals from establishments located in vaccination zones I and II outside those zones

Operators shall only move consignments of germinal products obtained from bovine animals from vaccination zones I and II outside those zones within the same Member State or to another Member State, in accordance with the derogation for such movements laid down in Article 13(3) of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/361, and the specific conditions laid down in Annex IX, Part 3, thereto, if those consignments are accompanied by an animal health certificate issued by the competent authority of the Member State of origin, in accordance with Article 161(4) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429, that contains at least one of the following attestations:

- (a) 'Germinal products... (semen, ova and/or embryos, indicate as appropriate) obtained from bovine animals kept in vaccination zone I in relation to emergency protective vaccination against lumpy skin disease, in compliance with Article 13(3) of, and Annex IX, Part 3, point (3.4.1), to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/361.';
- (b) 'Germinal products ... (semen, ova and/or embryos, indicate as appropriate) obtained from bovine animals kept in vaccination zone II in relation to emergency protective vaccination against lumpy skin disease, in compliance with Article 13(3) of, and Annex IX, Part 3, point (3.4.2), to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/361.'.

However, in the case of movements within the same Member State, the competent authority may decide that an animal health certificate does not have to be issued as referred to in the second subparagraph of Article 161(2) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429.

Article 5

Operators' obligations with regard to animal health certificates for movements of consignments of unprocessed animal by-products from bovine animals from vaccination zones I and II outside those zones

Operators shall only move consignments of unprocessed animal by-products from bovine animals from vaccination zones I and II outside those zones within the same Member State or to another Member State, in accordance with the derogation for such movements laid down in Article 13(3) of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/361, and the specific conditions laid down in Annex IX, Part 3, thereto, if those consignments are accompanied by an animal health certificate referred to in Article 22(5) and (6) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 ⁽⁵⁾ using the health model certificate for the movement of animal by-products from restricted zones set out in Annex VIII, Chapter III, point 7, to Commission Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 ⁽⁶⁾, containing at least one of the following attestations:

⁽⁵⁾ 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).

⁽⁶⁾ Commission Regulation (EU) No 142/2011 of 25 February 2011 implementing Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down health rules as regards animal by-products and derived products not intended for human consumption and implementing Council Directive 97/78/EC as regards certain samples and items exempt from veterinary checks at the border under that Directive (OJ L 54, 26.2.2011, p. 1).

- (a) 'Unprocessed animal by-products... (unprocessed animal by-products other than hides and skins, hides and skins, colostrum, milk and dairy products, indicate as appropriate) obtained from bovine animals kept in vaccination zone I in relation to emergency protective vaccination against lumpy skin disease, in compliance with Article 13(3) of, and Annex IX, Part 3, points (3.5) and (3.7), to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/361.';
- (b) 'Unprocessed animal by-products... (unprocessed animal by-products other than hides and skins, hides and skins, colostrum, milk and dairy products, indicate as appropriate) obtained from bovine animals kept in vaccination zone II in relation to emergency protective vaccination against lumpy skin disease, in compliance with Article 13(3) of, and Annex IX, Part 3, points (3.6) and (3.7), to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/361.'.

However, in the case of movements within the same Member State, the competent authority may decide that an animal health certificate shall not be issued as referred to in Article 22(6) of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687.

Article 6

Application

This Decision shall apply until 31 August 2024.

Article 7

Addressee

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 19 July 2023.

For the Commission
Stella KYRIAKIDES
Member of the Commission

*ANNEX***VACCINATION ZONES I and II****Vaccination zone I**

1. Bulgaria:
The entire territory of Bulgaria
2. Greece:
The entire territory of Greece

Vaccination zone II

None

RULES OF PROCEDURE

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

INTRODUCTION

On 5 July 2023 the Committee of the Regions adopted the following Rules of Procedure on the basis of Article 306, second paragraph, of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

TITLE I

MEMBERS AND CONSTITUENT BODIES OF THE COMMITTEE

CHAPTER 1

CONSTITUENT BODIES

Rule 1 – Constituent bodies of the Committee

The constituent bodies of the Committee shall be the Plenary Assembly, the President, the Bureau, the Conference of Presidents and the commissions.

Rule 2 – Gender diversity

1. The gender diversity of the Committee of the Regions should be reflected as much as possible in the composition of its constituent bodies.
2. The Bureau shall adopt a gender action plan aimed at incorporating a gender perspective in all the Committee's activities. The gender action plan shall be annually monitored and reviewed at least every five years.

CHAPTER 2

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Rule 3 – Status of members and alternates

Pursuant to Article 300 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the members and alternates shall be representatives of regional and local bodies. They shall hold a regional or local authority electoral mandate or shall be politically accountable to an elected assembly. They may not be bound by any mandatory instructions and shall be completely independent in the performance of their duties, in the general interest of the Union.

Rule 4 – Term of office

1. The term of office of a member or alternate shall commence on the date on which their appointment by the Council takes effect.
2. The term of office of a member or alternate shall be terminated by resignation, the end of the electoral mandate on the basis of which they were appointed, or death.
3. A resigning member or alternate must notify the President of the Committee of their intention in writing, specifying the date on which the resignation is to take effect. The President shall inform the Council, which shall confirm the vacancy and implement the replacement procedure.
4. A member or alternate whose term of office at the Committee ends because the electoral mandate, on the basis of which they were appointed, expires shall immediately inform the President of the Committee of the fact in writing.
5. In the cases referred to in Rule 4(2), a replacement shall be appointed by the Council for the remainder of the term.

Rule 5 – Privileges and immunities

Members and their duly mandated alternates shall enjoy privileges and immunities in accordance with the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the European Union.

Rule 6 – Attendance of members and alternates

1. Any member prevented from taking part in a Plenary Session may be represented by an alternate from their national delegation; they may also be represented for a period limited to individual days of the Plenary Session. All members and their duly mandated alternates shall sign an attendance list.
2. Any member prevented from taking part in a commission meeting or any other meeting which has been approved by the Bureau may be represented by another member or an alternate from their national delegation or political group. All members and their duly mandated alternates shall sign an attendance list.
3. A member or alternate appointed to the list of replacements for the members of a working group, established on the basis of Rule 37 or 61 of the Rules of Procedure, may replace any member of that working group belonging to the same political group.
4. An alternate or a member acting as an alternate can stand in for one member only. They shall exercise the same powers as a member at the relevant meeting. The Secretariat-General must be notified in line with notification requirements of the delegation of vote, which must be received no later than the day before the meeting.
5. At a Plenary Session the expenses of only the member or the alternate shall be reimbursed. The detailed provisions shall be laid down by the Bureau in the implementing arrangements regarding travel and subsistence expenses.
6. An alternate who has been appointed rapporteur may present the draft opinion for which he or she is responsible at the Plenary Session at which the draft opinion is on the agenda. The member may delegate his or her vote to this alternate while the draft opinion in question is being discussed. The Secretary-General must be notified in writing of the delegation of vote before the relevant meeting.
7. Without prejudice to Rule 24(1), any delegation shall cease to have effect from the moment the member who is unable to attend ceases to be a member of the Committee of the Regions.

Rule 7 – Delegation of vote

Except as provided for in Rules 6 and 32, the right to vote may not be delegated.

Rule 8 – National delegations and political groups

National delegations and political groups shall contribute in a balanced way to the organisation of the Committee's work.

Rule 9 – National delegations

1. The members and alternates from each Member State shall form a national delegation. Each national delegation shall adopt its own internal rules and shall elect a chair. The Committee President shall be officially informed of the name of the person elected.
2. The Secretary-General shall make arrangements, within the Committee's administration, for national delegations to receive assistance. These arrangements shall also permit individual members to receive information and assistance in their official languages. The arrangements shall form part of a specific service consisting of Committee of the Regions officials or other servants and shall ensure that national delegations can make appropriate use of the Committee's facilities. Specifically, the Secretary-General shall provide the national delegations with suitable means for holding meetings immediately before or during Plenary Sessions.

3. The national delegations shall also be assisted by national coordinators, who are not part of the staff of the Secretariat-General. They contribute to members efficiently executing their responsibilities as members of the Committee.

Rule 10 – Political groups and non-attached members

1. Members and alternates may form groups which reflect their political affinities. The criteria for membership shall be laid down in the internal rules of each political group.
2. At least eighteen members/alternates, half of whom at least must be members, representing at least one fifth of the Member States, shall be needed to form a political group. A member/alternate may belong to only one political group. A political group shall be dissolved if its membership falls below the required number.
3. The Committee President shall be notified in a statement when a political group is set up, dissolved or otherwise changed. The statement notifying the formation of a political group shall specify the name of the political group, its members and its bureau.
4. Each political group shall be assisted by a secretariat staffed by Secretariat-General personnel. The political groups may submit proposals to the appointing authority for the selection, appointment and promotion of such staff and for extending their contracts. The appointing authority shall make its decision after consulting the president of the political group concerned.
5. The Secretary-General shall provide the political groups and their constituent bodies with adequate resources for meetings, activities and publications and for the work of their secretariats. The resources for each political group shall be earmarked in the budget. The political groups and their secretariats may make appropriate use of the Committee's facilities.
6. The political groups and their bureaux may meet immediately before or during Plenary Sessions. They may hold extraordinary meetings twice a year. An alternate attending these meetings is only entitled to travel and subsistence expenses if they are representing a member from their political group.
7. Non-attached members shall be provided with administrative support. The detailed arrangements shall be laid down by the Bureau on a proposal from the Secretary-General.

Rule 11 – Interregional groups

Members and alternates may form interregional groups. They shall inform the Committee President thereof. An interregional group shall be duly formed by decision of the Bureau.

TITLE II

ORGANISATION AND PROCEDURE OF THE COMMITTEE

CHAPTER I

INITIAL CONVENING AND INSTALLATION IN OFFICE OF THE COMMITTEE

Rule 12 – Convening the first meeting

The Committee shall be convened, after each five-yearly renewal, by the outgoing President, or failing that, the outgoing first Vice-President or, failing that, the oldest outgoing Vice-President or, failing that, the oldest member and shall meet not later than one month after the appointment of its members by the Council.

The member acting as interim President under the first paragraph of this Rule shall also take on the role of representing the Committee during this period, continue to deal with the current business, and shall chair the first meeting in their capacity as interim President.

He or she, together with the four youngest members present and the Secretary-General of the Committee, shall constitute the interim Bureau.

Rule 13 – Installation in office of the Committee and verification of credentials

1. At the first meeting, the interim President shall inform the Committee of the communication from the Council concerning the appointment of its members and report on any action he or she has undertaken to represent the Committee and to deal with the current business. If requested, the interim president may decide to verify the appointment and credentials of members, after which he or she shall declare the Committee installed in office for the new term.
2. The interim Bureau shall remain in office until the results of the elections of the members of the Bureau have been declared.

CHAPTER 2

PLENARY ASSEMBLY

Rule 14 – Tasks of the Plenary Assembly

The Committee shall meet as a Plenary Assembly. Its main tasks shall be:

- (a) to adopt opinions, reports and resolutions;
- (b) to adopt the draft estimates of expenditure and revenue of the Committee;
- (c) to adopt the political priorities of the Committee;
- (d) to elect the President, the first Vice-President and the remaining members of the Bureau;
- (e) to set up commissions;
- (f) to adopt and revise the Rules of Procedure of the Committee;
- (g) to adopt and revise codes of conduct for members;
- (h) having verified that there is a quorum under the first sentence of Rule 22(1) of the Rules of Procedure, to take a decision, by a majority of the votes cast, on a proposal by the President of the Committee, or the competent commission acting in accordance with Rules 57 and 58, to bring an action or an application to intervene before the Court of Justice of the European Union. When such a decision is adopted, the action shall be brought by the President on behalf of the Committee.

Rule 15 – Convening the Plenary Assembly

1. The President of the Committee shall convene the Plenary Assembly at least once every three months. The dates of the Plenary Sessions are to be fixed by the Bureau during the first half of the previous year. A Plenary Session can meet on one or more days.
2. At the written request of at least one quarter of the members, the President shall be obliged to convene an extraordinary Plenary Session, which shall take place not sooner than one week and not later than one month after the date of the request. The written request shall state the subject matter which is to be discussed at the extraordinary Plenary Session. No other matter may be dealt with.

Rule 16 – Agenda for the Plenary Session

1. The preliminary draft agenda containing a provisional list of the draft opinions, reports and resolutions to be discussed at the next but one Plenary Session together with all the other documents requiring a decision shall be prepared by the Bureau.
2. The draft agenda accompanied by all the documents requiring a decision listed therein shall be made available electronically to the members and alternates in each respective official language at least twenty-one working days before the opening of the Plenary Session.

3. It is the President's responsibility to prepare the draft agenda, after consulting the Conference of Presidents.
4. In exceptional and duly motivated cases where the deadline referred to in paragraph 2 cannot be met, the President may decide to include a document requiring a decision on the draft agenda provided the relevant document has been received by the members and alternates in their official language not later than one week before the opening of the Plenary Session. The reason for the application of this procedure shall be indicated by the President on the cover page of the document requiring a decision.
5. Written amendments to the draft agenda must be submitted to the Secretary-General not later than three working days before the opening of the Plenary Session.
6. The Bureau shall finalise the draft agenda at its meeting immediately prior to the opening of the Plenary Session. At this meeting the Bureau may decide, by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, to include on the agenda matters of an urgent or topical nature whose discussion cannot be deferred until the next Plenary Session.
7. On a proposal from the President, a political group or 32 members, the Bureau or the Plenary Assembly, before proceeding to the vote on the amendments, may decide to defer discussion of a document for decision to a future Plenary Session.

This provision shall not apply in cases where a deadline set by the Council, the Commission or the European Parliament makes it impossible to defer the adoption of a document for decision.

A document for decision deferred to a future session of the Plenary Assembly shall be accompanied by all the related duly tabled amendments. An adjournment of the vote also opens a new deadline for tabling amendments.

Rule 17 – Opening of the Plenary Session

The President shall open the Plenary Session and call for the adoption of the final draft agenda.

Rule 18 – Admission of the public, guests and guest speakers

1. Plenary Sessions shall be open to the public, unless the Plenary Assembly decides otherwise in respect of the whole meeting or a specific item on the agenda.
2. Representatives of the European Parliament, Council and Commission may attend Plenary Sessions. They may be asked to take the floor.
3. Other distinguished guests may also be invited to address the Plenary Assembly by the President, acting on his or her own initiative or at the request of the Bureau.

Rule 19 – Standards of conduct and speaking time

1. Without prejudice to the freedom of speech, members' conduct shall be characterised by mutual respect, be based on the values and principles laid down in the basic texts on which the European Union is founded, respect the dignity of the Committee and not compromise the smooth conduct of works of the constituent bodies of the Committee or disturb the peace and quiet of any Committee premises.
2. The Plenary Assembly shall, at the beginning of its meeting and acting on a proposal from the Bureau, allocate speaking time for every item on the agenda. During a Plenary Session the President, acting on his or her own initiative or at the request of a member, shall arrange for a decision to be taken to limit speaking time.
3. The President may propose to the Plenary Assembly that when debates are held on general or specific issues, speaking time should be divided among the political groups and national delegations.

4. As a general rule, speaking time shall be limited to one minute for comments on minutes, for points of order and for comments on amendments to the final draft agenda or the agenda.
5. If speakers exceed their allotted speaking time, the President may withdraw their permission to speak.
6. Any request by a member that the debate be brought to a close shall be put to the vote by the President.

Rule 20 – Speakers in the Plenary Assembly

1. The names of members who ask to speak shall be entered on a list in the order in which their requests are received. The President shall call upon members to speak on the basis of this list, ensuring as far as possible the diversity of speakers.
2. Priority may be given, however, to the rapporteur of the commission concerned and to the representatives of the political groups and national delegations wishing to speak on behalf of their group or delegation.
3. No-one may take the floor more than twice on the same subject, except by leave of the President. The chair and the rapporteur of the commission concerned shall, however, be allowed to speak at their request for a period to be decided by the President.

Rule 21 – Points of order

1. A member shall be allowed to speak to raise a point of order or to draw the attention of the President to any failure to respect the Rules of Procedure. The point of order must concern the agenda or the subject under discussion.
2. A request to raise a point of order shall take precedence over all other requests to speak.
3. The President shall take an immediate decision on points of order in accordance with the Rules of Procedure and shall announce his or her ruling immediately after the Rules of Procedure have been invoked. No vote shall be taken on the President's ruling

Rule 22 – Quorum

1. A quorum shall exist at a Plenary Session if a majority of the members is present. The quorum shall be verified at the request of a member if at least sixteen members vote in favour of the request. If the verification of a quorum is not requested, all votes shall be valid regardless of the number of members present. The President may interrupt the Plenary Session for up to ten minutes before proceeding with a verification of the quorum. Members who have requested verification of the quorum but are no longer present in the Plenary Session chamber shall be considered to be present for the purposes of the count. If fewer than sixteen members are present, the President may rule that there is no quorum.
2. If it is established that there is no quorum, all items on the agenda which require voting shall be postponed until the following meeting day, when the Plenary Assembly may hold a valid vote on these items whatever the number of members present. All decisions or votes taken at the meeting before the verification of the quorum shall remain valid.

Rule 23 – Voting

1. The Plenary Assembly shall decide by a majority of the votes cast, save where otherwise provided in these rules.
2. The valid forms of vote shall be 'for', 'against' and 'abstention'. In calculating the majority, only the votes cast for and against shall be taken into account. In the event of a tied vote, the text or proposal shall be deemed rejected.

3. The right to vote shall be a personal right. Members shall only vote in an individual and personal capacity.
4. If the result of the count is queried, a fresh vote may be called for by the President or may take place at the request of a member, provided that at least sixteen members support the request.
5. At the proposal of the President, a political group or 32 members, submitted before the final agenda is adopted, the Plenary Assembly may decide to hold a roll call vote for one or more agenda items, which shall be recorded in the Plenary Session minutes. Unless the Plenary Assembly decides otherwise, the use of a roll call vote shall not apply to amendments.
6. At the proposal of the President, a political group or 32 members, a decision may be taken to vote by secret ballot if the decision concerns persons.
7. The President may at any time decide that a vote shall be conducted by electronic means.

The recording of the numerical result of an electronic vote shall be accessible to the public after the Plenary Session.

Rule 24 – Tabling of amendments

1. Only members and duly mandated alternates – and, for his or her own opinion, any non-mandated alternate appointed as rapporteur – may table amendments to documents requiring a decision, in accordance with rules on tabling amendments.

The right to table amendments at a Plenary Session may be exercised either by a member or by the member's duly mandated alternate. If a member delegates all or part of a Plenary Session to an alternate, only one of them can table amendments. If the member tables any amendments to any part of the Plenary Session, then the alternate cannot do so afterwards. Similarly, if the alternate is delegated for any part of the Plenary Session and tables any amendments to an opinion – before the member has tabled any amendments – then the member cannot table any amendments to the Plenary Session. Amendments validly tabled by a member or alternate who subsequently loses that office, or before the granting or withdrawal of a delegation, shall remain valid.

2. Without prejudice to the provisions of Rule 28, amendments to documents requiring a decision must be submitted either by a political group or by at least six members or duly mandated alternates and must bear their names. National delegations with fewer than six members may submit amendments, provided that these amendments are submitted by and bear the names of all the members of the delegation or their duly appointed alternates.
3. They must be submitted before 3 p.m. on the eleventh working day before the opening day of the Plenary Session. Amendments must be electronically retrievable as soon as they have been translated, but not later than four working days prior to the Plenary Session.

The amendments shall be translated as a matter of priority and sent to the rapporteur to allow him or her to submit rapporteur's amendments to the Secretariat-General at least three working days before the opening of the Plenary Session. These rapporteur's amendments must be associated and related to one or more amendments referred to in paragraph 1 which the rapporteur shall identify. The rapporteur's amendments shall be retrievable on the day before the opening day of the Plenary Session.

The deadline for the submission of amendments can be reduced to a minimum of three working days by the President in cases where Rule 16(4) is applied. The deadline shall also not apply in the case of amendments to urgent matters pursuant to Rule 16(6).

4. All amendments shall be distributed to members before the beginning of the Plenary Session.

Rule 25 – Procedure for dealing with amendments

1. The following voting procedure shall apply:

- (a) First, voting on any amendments to the draft document. Amendments shall have priority over the text to which they relate.
- (b) Second, voting on the text as a whole, whether amended or not.

2. Principles governing voting:

- (a) Compromise amendments presented during the meeting.

If one or more amendments have been tabled to a part of a text, the President, the rapporteur or the authors of these amendments may in exceptional cases propose compromise amendments. These compromise amendments shall be given priority in voting.

If the rapporteur or any of the authors of the initial amendment raises an objection to the proposed compromise amendment, it shall not be put to the vote.

- (b) Joint votes.

The President may decide, before the adoption or rejection of a particular amendment, that several other amendments of similar content or with similar objectives shall be put to the vote collectively (joint vote). These amendments may relate to different parts of the original text.

- (c) Block votes.

Rapporteurs may draw up a list of amendments tabled to their draft opinion which they recommend to be adopted (voting recommendation). If the rapporteur has made a voting recommendation, the President may decide that certain amendments covered by the recommendation are to be voted on together (block vote). Any member may, however, object to the voting recommendation, specifying which amendments should be voted on separately.

- (d) Split votes.

Where the text to be put to the vote contains two or more provisions or references to two or more points, or lends itself to division into two or more parts having a distinct meaning and/or normative value, a split vote may be requested by the rapporteur, a political group, by a national delegation, or by any of the members that submitted the amendment.

The request should be made at least one hour before the beginning of the Plenary Session, unless the President sets a different deadline. The President shall decide on the request.

A split vote shall not be admissible in the case of a compromise amendment or a rapporteur's amendment.

3. Voting on amendments:

Voting on amendments shall follow the order of the points in the text and the following order of priority:

- compromise amendments, unless one of the authors of the original amendments is opposed,
- rapporteur's amendments,
- other amendments.
- Once adopted, rapporteur's amendments and compromise amendments replace the amendments from which they derive.
- Where two or more identical amendments are tabled by different authors, they shall be put to the vote as one.
- Amendments identified as being of linguistic nature are not put to the vote.

4. If two or more mutually exclusive amendments have been tabled to the same part of a text, the amendment that departs furthest from the original text shall have priority and shall be put to the vote first.

5. The President shall announce before the vote is taken whether the adoption of an amendment would negate one or more other amendments, either because these amendments are mutually exclusive if they refer to the same passage, or because they are contradictory. An amendment shall be deemed to fall if it is inconsistent with a prior vote on the same opinion. If the authors of an amendment dispute the President's decision in this regard, the Plenary Assembly shall decide whether or not to put the disputed amendment to a vote.
6. If the text as a whole does not obtain a majority of the votes cast in the final vote, the Plenary Assembly shall then decide whether the draft opinion shall be returned to the competent commission or shall be given up. An opinion shall be deemed lapsed if the interinstitutional calendar does not permit further discussion. The Committee President will inform the institution from which the request emanated.

If the draft opinion is returned to the competent commission, the commission must decide either to:

- re-submit the draft opinion for debate and adoption, as modified by the amendments adopted in Plenary Session,
- appoint a new rapporteur and thus re-launch the process of drafting the opinion,
- or give up the opinion.

Rule 26 – Coherence of a final text

If the coherence of the final text has been compromised as a result of the adoption of amendments that have not been declared invalid in accordance with Rule 25(5), or as a result of an adopted amendment that requires other relevant parts of the text to be amended accordingly, the administration shall – having consulted the political groups, the rapporteur and the author of the relevant amendments – introduce modifications to restore the coherence of the final text. Any changes to the text must be kept to the strict minimum necessary to restore coherence. Members will be informed of any changes introduced.

Rule 27 – Urgent opinions

In urgent cases where a deadline set by the Council, Commission or European Parliament cannot be met under the normal procedure, and the relevant commission has adopted its draft opinion unanimously, the President shall transmit this draft opinion to the Council, Commission and European Parliament for information. The draft opinion shall be submitted to the following Plenary Session for adoption without amendment. All documents relating to the said opinion must testify to the urgent nature of the opinion.

Rule 28 – Simplified procedures

Draft opinions or reports adopted unanimously by a commission shall be submitted to the Plenary Assembly for adoption without change unless at least 32 members or duly mandated alternates or a political group table an amendment in accordance with the first sentence of Rule 24(3). In this case, the amendment shall be dealt with by the Plenary Assembly. The draft opinion or report shall be presented by the rapporteur at the Plenary Session and may be the subject of a debate. It shall be forwarded to members together with the draft agenda.

Rule 29 – Closing of the Plenary Session

Before the closing of the Plenary Session, the President shall announce the time and place of the following Plenary Session together with any items already on the agenda.

Rule 30 – Symbols

1. The Committee recognises and adopts the following Union symbols:
 - (a) the flag representing a circle of twelve gold stars on a blue background;
 - (b) the anthem entitled 'Ode to Joy' from Beethoven's Ninth Symphony;
 - (c) the motto 'United in Diversity'.

2. The Committee shall celebrate Europe Day on 9 May and encourage members to do likewise.
3. The flag shall be displayed in the buildings of the Committee and to mark official occasions.
4. The anthem shall be played at the opening of every inaugural session at the beginning of a term of office and to mark other commemorative sessions, e.g. when welcoming heads of state or government, or new members following an enlargement.

CHAPTER 3

THE BUREAU AND THE PRESIDENT

Rule 31 – Composition of the Bureau

The Bureau shall consist of:

- (a) the President;
- (b) the first Vice-President;
- (c) one Vice-President per Member State;
- (d) twenty-six other members;
- (e) the presidents of the political groups.

Seats on the Bureau (excluding the seats of the President, the first Vice-President and the presidents of the political groups) shall be divided among the national delegations as follows:

- 3 seats: Germany, Spain, France, Italy, Poland
- 2 seats: Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Greece, Ireland, Lithuania, Hungary, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden
- 1 seat: Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Slovenia.

Rule 32 – Replacements at Bureau meetings

1. The national delegations shall appoint a member or alternate from the delegation as replacement for each of their members of the Bureau, except for the President and the first Vice-President.
2. For each political group president, the political group in question shall name one of its members or alternates as replacement.
3. A replacement shall be entitled to participate in meetings with speaking and voting rights only when he or she is replacing the Bureau member in question. The delegation of vote, given by the member prevented from taking part in the Bureau meeting, must be notified to the Secretary-General prior to the relevant meeting in accordance with the required notification procedure.

Rule 33 – Election rules

1. The Bureau shall be elected by the Plenary Assembly for two and a half years.
2. The election shall be held under the chairmanship of the interim President in accordance with Rules 12 and 13. All candidatures must be submitted in writing to the Secretary-General at least one hour before the beginning of the Plenary Session. The elections shall take place only after verification of the quorum of presence referred to in Rule 22, paragraph 1, first sentence.

Rule 34 – Election of the President and the first Vice-President

1. Before the elections, candidates for the posts of President and first Vice-President may make a short statement before the Plenary Assembly. The speaking time for candidates shall be of equal length and shall be laid down by the interim president.

2. The election of the President and the first Vice-President shall take place separately. They shall be elected by a majority of the votes cast.
3. The valid forms of vote shall be a vote for and an abstention. In calculating the majority, only the votes cast for shall be taken into account.
4. If no candidate obtains a majority in the first ballot, a second ballot shall be held in which the candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be deemed to be elected. In the event of a tied vote, a decision shall be taken by drawing lots.

Rule 35 – Election of the members and replacement members of the Bureau

1. A joint list may be drawn up for the candidates from those national delegations which nominate only one candidate for each of the seats allocated to them on the Bureau. This list may be adopted in a single ballot if it obtains a majority of the votes cast.

In cases where a joint list of candidates is not adopted, or where the number of candidates exceeds the number of seats allocated to a national delegation on the Bureau, each of these seats shall be decided in separate ballots; in this case the provisions on the election of the President and the first Vice-President shall be applicable in accordance with Rules 33 and 34 (2) to (4).

2. The same rules shall apply to the election of replacement members, who may be elected at the same time as the Bureau members.
3. The presidents of the political groups elected within each group are ex-officio members of the Bureau.

Rule 36 – By-elections for vacant Bureau seats

In the event of termination of Committee membership or of resignation from the Bureau, a member of the Bureau or his or her replacement shall be replaced for the remainder of their term of office in accordance with the procedures laid down in Rules 31 to 35. The by-election for a vacant Bureau seat or alternate seat shall take place at a Plenary Session chaired by the President or by his representative, in accordance with Rule 39(3).

Rule 37 – Tasks of the Bureau

The Bureau shall have the following tasks:

- (a) Preparation and submission to the Plenary Assembly of its political priorities at the beginning of its term, and monitoring of its implementation; at the end of its term, submission to the Plenary Assembly of a report on the implementation of the political priorities;
- (b) Organisation and coordination of the work of the Plenary Assembly and the commissions;
- (c) Preparation and submission of a code of conduct to the Plenary Assembly;
- (d) Overall responsibility for financial, organisational and administrative matters concerning members and alternates; internal organisation of the Committee, its Secretariat-General, including the establishment plan, and its constituent bodies;
- (e) The Bureau may:
 - set up working groups of Bureau members or of Committee members to advise it in specific areas; such working groups may have up to thirteen members,
 - invite other members of the Committee, by virtue of their expertise or mandate, and persons not belonging to the Committee, to attend its meetings;

- (f) Monitoring of the follow-up to opinions, reports and resolutions and of the Committee's annual impact assessment, and provision of advice to the President on the implementation of the results;
- (g) Engagement of the Secretary-General and the officials and other servants listed in Rule 71;
- (h) Submission of the draft estimates of expenditure and revenue to the Plenary Assembly in accordance with Rule 73;
- (i) Authorisation of meetings away from the usual place of work;
- (j) Drawing-up of provisions for the membership and working methods of working groups, joint committees with applicant countries and other political bodies in which Committee members participate.

The joint consultative committees are set up with local and regional representatives of the applicant countries on the basis of the provisions laid down in the stabilisation and association agreement.

The joint consultative committee's members from the applicant countries are formally appointed by their government in order to represent their local and regional authorities. Decisions within the joint consultative committees are taken jointly with the partner representatives, under a co-chairmanship between the Committee of the Regions and the applicant country.

The joint consultative committees should adopt report and recommendations focused on areas relevant to the local authorities in the enlargement process. Reports can be also addressed to the association council.

- (k) Having verified that there is a quorum under the first sentence of Rule 38(2), taking a decision to bring an action or an application to intervene before the Court of Justice of the European Union, when the Plenary Assembly is not able to take a decision within the deadline, by a majority of the votes cast, on a proposal by the President of the Committee or the competent commission acting in accordance with Rules 57 and 58. When such a decision is adopted, the President shall bring the action on behalf of the Committee and shall ask the Plenary Assembly at its next session to decide whether to maintain the action. If, having verified the existence of the quorum referred to in the first sentence of Rule 22(1), the Plenary Assembly takes a decision by the majority required in Rule 14(h) not to bring the action, the President shall withdraw the action.

Rule 38 – Convening of the Bureau, quorum and decision

1. The Bureau shall be convened by the President, who shall set the date of the meeting and the agenda in agreement with the first Vice-President. The Bureau shall meet at least once every three months, or within 14 days following receipt of a written request by at least one quarter of its members.
2. A quorum shall exist at a Bureau meeting if at least one half of its members are present. The quorum shall be verified at the request of a member, provided that at least six members vote in favour of the request. If the verification of a quorum is not requested, all votes shall be valid regardless of the number of members present. If it is established that there is no quorum, the Bureau may continue its discussions but voting shall take place at the next meeting.
3. The Bureau shall decide by a majority of the votes cast, save where otherwise provided for in these rules. Rule 23(2) and (6) shall apply.
4. Without prejudice to Rule 40(4)(b) in preparation for the Bureau decisions, the President may ask the Secretary-General to draw up discussion documents and recommendations for a decision on each item to be discussed; these documents and recommendations shall be enclosed with the draft agenda.
5. The documents must be made available electronically to members at least 10 days before the opening of the meeting.

Amendments to Bureau documents must reach the Secretary-General at least two working days before the opening of the Bureau meeting, in accordance with the applicable rules, and shall be electronically retrievable as soon as they have been translated. Wherever possible, documents prepared for the Bureau shall include various options for the Bureau to select from and be amendable as soon as they are published.

6. In exceptional circumstances, the President may have recourse to a written procedure for the adoption of a decision other than a decision relating to individuals. The President shall send members the proposed decision and ask to be informed in writing, within three working days, of any objections they may have. The decision shall be deemed to be adopted unless objections are received from at least six members.

Rule 39 – The President

1. The President shall direct the work of the Committee.
2. The President shall be the Committee's representative and may delegate these powers.
3. When absent, the President shall be represented by the first Vice-President; if the first Vice-President is absent, the President shall be represented by one of the other Vice-Presidents.
4. The President is responsible for the security and the inviolability of the premises of the Committee.

Rule 40 – Commission for Financial and Administrative Affairs

1. The Bureau shall, in accordance with Rule 37, set up an advisory Commission for Financial and Administrative Affairs (CFAA), chaired by a member of the Bureau.
2. The dates of the meeting and their agendas shall be set by the chair acting in agreement with the first vice chair.
3. The CFAA may appoint a rapporteur from among its members to assist the commission in preparing CFAA reports to the Bureau, on the duties assigned to it. The member shall report to the commission and the Bureau, if needed and in agreement with the chair, within the remits of his or her topics. This member can present his or her report to CFAA by written or oral submission.
4. The CFAA shall have the following responsibilities:
 - (a) Advising on and adopting, in accordance with Rule 73, the preliminary draft estimates of the Committee's expenditure and revenue submitted by the Secretary-General.
 - (b) Drawing up draft Bureau implementing provisions and decisions in the financial, organisational and administrative areas, including those relating to members and alternates.

These documents together with the summary of decisions of CFAA shall be sent to the members of the Bureau in accordance with Rules 38(4) and 38(5).
 - (c) Advising on matters of importance which may compromise the sound management of appropriations or prevent attainment of the set objectives, in particular as regard forecast on the utilisation of appropriations, in particular by assessing the implementation of the current budget, transfers of appropriations, procedures relating to the establishment plans, administrative appropriations and operations concerning buildings related projects.
5. In exceptional circumstances, the President may have recourse to a written procedure for the adoption of a decision. The President shall send members the proposed decision and ask to be informed in writing, within three working days, of any objections they may have. The decision shall be deemed to be adopted unless objections are received from at least three members.
6. The chair of the CFAA shall represent the Committee vis-à-vis the budget authorities of the Union.

Opinions, reports and resolutions – Procedure in Bureau**Rule 41 – Opinions – Legal bases**

The Committee shall adopt its opinions pursuant to Article 307 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union:

- (a) when it is consulted by the European Parliament, by the Council or by the Commission where the Treaties so provide and in all other cases, in particular those which concern cross-border cooperation, in which one of these institutions considers it appropriate;
 - (b) on its own initiative when it considers it appropriate either:
 - (i) based on a Communication, Report or Legislative proposal from another European Union institution sent to the Committee for information, or based on a request from the Member State that holds the current or next Presidency of the Council;
- or
- (ii) entirely on its own initiative and, pursuant to Rule 14, on the basis of the Committee's political priorities in all other cases;
 - (c) when, in the event of the Economic and Social Committee being consulted under Article 304 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, it considers that specific regional interests are involved.

Rule 42 – Opinions – Designation of commission

1. The President shall assign documents received from the European Parliament, European Council, Council or Commission to the commission responsible; the Bureau shall be informed of this at its next meeting.
2. If the subject of an opinion falls within the area of competence of more than one commission, the President shall, after having consulted the chairs of the commissions in question, designate a lead commission responsible. The Secretary-General will ensure, prior to the President's consultation with the chairs, a thorough analysis of the objective reasons why the document in question concerns the competences of more than one commission. When the matter falls indissociably within the competences of several commissions, the President may propose the setting up of a temporary working group comprising an equal number of representatives of the commissions concerned. This working group may designate one rapporteur to draft a single opinion or a resolution to be submitted to the plenary session.
3. If a commission does not agree with a decision of the President taken under Rule 42(1) and (2), it may via its chair submit an application for a Bureau decision.

Rule 43 – Appointment of a rapporteur-general

1. If the commission concerned cannot draw up a draft opinion by the required deadline the Bureau may propose that the Plenary Assembly appoint a rapporteur-general, who shall submit their draft opinion straight to the Plenary Assembly.
2. When the required deadline does not give the Plenary Assembly time to appoint a rapporteur-general, the rapporteur-general may be appointed by the President; when this is the case, the Plenary Assembly shall be informed at its next meeting.
3. The rapporteur-general shall be a member of the commission concerned.
4. In both cases, the commission concerned shall meet, where possible, to hold a general exploratory debate on the subject.

Rule 44 – Own-initiative opinions

1. Applications for own-initiative opinions under Rule 41(b)(ii) may be submitted to the Bureau by four of its members, by a commission via its chair or by 32 members of the Committee. These applications must be submitted, with reasons, and together with all the other discussion documents in accordance with Rule 38(4), wherever possible, before the annual work programme is adopted.
2. Commissions shall decide on applications for own-initiative opinions under Rule 41(b)(ii) by a majority of two thirds of the votes cast. The Bureau shall decide on applications for own-initiative opinions under Rule 41(b)(ii) by a majority of the votes cast. The opinions shall be referred to the relevant commissions in accordance with Rule 42. The President shall inform the Plenary Assembly of all Bureau decisions approving and allocating these own-initiative opinions.

Rule 45 – Tabling of resolutions

1. Resolutions are to be put on the agenda only if they refer to the activities of the European Union, deal with important concerns of regional and local authorities and are of topical interest.
2. Draft resolutions or applications for the drafting of a resolution may be submitted to the Committee by at least 32 members or a political group. All drafts or applications, indicating the names of the members or political group supporting them, shall be submitted to the Bureau in writing. They must reach the Secretary-General not later than five working days before the opening of the Bureau meeting. They shall be available for the members not later than three days before the Bureau meeting in all languages. Draft amendments can be submitted electronically from the moment of availability of the draft resolution. Upon a positive Bureau decision draft amendments will be automatically submitted as amendments. Upon a negative Bureau decision the draft amendments will be automatically removed from the system.
3. If the Bureau decides that the Committee is to discuss a draft resolution or an application for the drafting of a resolution, it may
 - (a) put the draft resolution on the Plenary Session preliminary draft agenda in accordance with Rule 16(1);
 - (b) in accordance with the second sentence of Rule 16(6), place a draft resolution on the agenda for the next Plenary Session. Such draft resolutions shall be dealt with on the second day of the session.
4. Draft resolutions referring to an unforeseeable event occurring after the expiry of the deadline stipulated in Rule 45(2) (urgent resolutions) and complying with the provisions of Rule 45(1) may be submitted at the beginning of the Bureau meeting. If the Bureau decides that the proposal concerns the key tasks of the Committee, the proposal shall be dealt with under Rule 45(3)(b). Amendments to urgent resolutions may be tabled by any member during the Plenary Session.

*CHAPTER 4***CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS****Rule 46 – Composition**

The Conference of Presidents shall consist of the President, the first Vice-President and the presidents of the political groups. The presidents of the political groups may be represented by another member of their group.

Rule 47 – Powers

The Conference of Presidents debates any question submitted to it by the President with a view to preparing and facilitating the search for a political consensus on decisions to be taken by the Committee's other constituent bodies.

The President, in his or her communication to the Bureau, should report on the discussions that took place at the meeting of the Conference of Presidents.

CHAPTER 5

COMMISSIONS**Rule 48 – Composition and powers**

1. At the beginning of each five-year term, the Plenary Assembly shall set up commissions to prepare its work. It shall decide on their composition and powers on a proposal from the Bureau.
2. The composition of the commissions shall reflect the national composition of the Committee.
3. Members of the Committee must belong to at least one commission but may not belong to more than two. Exceptions may be made by the Bureau for members belonging to national delegations which have fewer members than the number of commissions.

Rule 49 – Chairs and vice-chairs

1. Each commission shall elect from among its members a chair, a first vice-chair and no more than two other vice-chairs. They shall be elected for a period of two and a half years.
2. Where the number of candidates corresponds to the number of seats to be filled, the election may take place by acclamation. Where this is not the case, or one sixth of the members of the commission so request, the election shall be in accordance with the provisions laid down in Rule 34(2) to (4) for the election of the Committee President and first Vice-President.
3. If a commission chair or vice-chair terminates their Committee membership or resigns as a commission chair or vice-chair, the vacancy shall be filled in accordance with the provisions of this Rule.

Rule 50 – Tasks of commissions

1. In accordance with the powers assigned to them by the Plenary Assembly on the basis of Rule 48, the commissions shall debate Union policies. They shall in particular draw up the draft versions of opinions, reports and resolutions for adoption by the Plenary Assembly.
2. The commissions shall decide on the preparation of opinions under:
 - Rule 41(a)
 - Rule 41(b)(i)
 - Rule 41(c).
3. They shall draw up their annual work programmes in accordance with the Committee's political priorities and send them to the Bureau for information.

Rule 51 – Convening of commissions and their agendas

1. The dates of meetings and their agendas shall be set by the chair of each commission acting in agreement with the first vice-chair.
2. A commission shall be convened by its chair. The convening notice for an ordinary meeting together with the agenda must reach members not later than four weeks before the date of the meeting.
3. At the written request of at least one quarter of its members, the chair shall be obliged to convene an extraordinary commission meeting, which must be held not later than four weeks after the submission of the request. The agenda for an extraordinary meeting shall be set by the members submitting the request for such a meeting. It shall be forwarded to members together with the convening notice.

4. All draft opinions and other discussion documents requiring translation shall be sent to the secretariat of the commission in question not later than five weeks before the date set for the meeting. They shall then be made available electronically to members at least fourteen working days before the date of the meeting. In exceptional cases the above time limits may be amended by the chair.
5. Documents shall be submitted to the secretariat by email in accordance with the standard format adopted by the Bureau. The political recommendations contained in the document shall not exceed a total of 10 pages (15 000 characters) with an adjustment of not more than 10 % for linguistic reasons. Derogations may however be granted by the chair of the commission for exceptional cases, where the subject matter warrants more extensive consideration.

Rule 52 – Attendance and admission of the public

1. All members and alternates taking part in the meeting shall sign an attendance list for each meeting day.
2. The proceedings of the commissions shall be open to the public, unless a commission decides otherwise in respect of the whole meeting or of a specific item on the agenda.
3. Representatives of the European Parliament, Council and Commission as well as other visitors may be invited to participate in the meetings of the commissions and to reply to questions from members.

Rule 53 – Time limits for drawing up opinions

1. The commissions shall present their draft opinions within the time limits set out in the interinstitutional calendar. The discussion of a draft opinion shall require no more than two meetings, not including the first meeting at which the work shall be organised.
2. In exceptional cases the Bureau may authorise further meetings to discuss a draft opinion, or may extend the time limit for the presentation of the draft.

Rule 54 – Content of opinions

1. A Committee opinion shall set out the Committee's views and recommendations on the question under consideration.
2. Committee opinions on proposals for legal acts in areas not falling within the Union's exclusive field of competence shall express a view on the proposal's compliance with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.

Other Committee opinions may refer to the application of the subsidiarity and proportionality principles whenever appropriate.

3. These opinions shall also, wherever possible, address the expected impact on administration and regional and local finances.
4. Committee opinions on legislative acts should include recommendations for amendments to the European Commission text.
5. If necessary, an explanatory statement shall be drawn up under the responsibility of the rapporteur and shall not be put to the vote. It must, however, accord with the text of the opinion that was put to the vote.
6. A draft opinion that proposes a new Committee's activity with financial implications must be accompanied by an annex with an estimation of the costs of that activity.

Rule 55 – Follow-up to Committee opinions, reports and resolutions

During the period following the adoption of an opinion, a report or a resolution, the rapporteur and/or the chair of the commission appointed to draw up the draft document in question shall, with the assistance of the Secretariat-General, monitor the course of the procedure underlying the Committee's consultation, and undertake all appropriate activities to promote the Committee's positions as adopted in the opinion taking due note of the institutional calendar.

Rule 56 – Revised opinions

1. If the commission deems it necessary, it may draw up a revised draft opinion on the same subject and, where possible, with the same rapporteur, in order to take account of and respond to interinstitutional developments in the related legislative procedure.
2. The commission shall meet, where possible, to hold a debate and adopt the draft opinion, which shall be sent to the next Plenary Session.
3. In the event that progress in the procedure underlying the Committee's consultation does not allow enough time for the commission to adopt the draft revised opinion, the chair of this commission shall immediately inform the Committee President in order to allow the procedure for appointing a rapporteur-general under Rule 43 to be invoked.

Rule 57 – Action for infringement of the subsidiarity principle

1. The President of the Committee or the commission responsible for drawing up the draft opinion may propose bringing an action or an application to intervene before the Court of Justice of the European Union for infringement of the subsidiarity principle by a legislative act on which the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union provides that the Committee be consulted.
2. The commission shall take its decision by a majority of the votes cast, having verified the existence of the quorum referred to in Rule 63(1). The commission proposal shall be sent for decision to the Plenary Assembly in accordance with Rule 14(h) or to the Bureau in the cases referred to in Rule 37(k). The commission shall state the reasons for its proposal in a detailed report, including, where appropriate, the reasons for the urgency of the decision on the basis of Rule 37(k).

Rule 58 – Failure to carry out obligatory consultation of the Committee

1. When the Committee has not been consulted in cases provided for by the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the President of the Committee or a commission may propose to the Plenary Assembly, in accordance with Rule 14(h), or to the Bureau in the cases referred to in Rule 37(k), that an action or an application to intervene be brought before the Court of Justice of the European Union.
2. The commission shall take its decision by a majority of the votes cast, having previously verified that the quorum referred to in Rule 63(1) exists. The commission shall state the reasons for its proposal in a detailed report, including, where appropriate, the reasons for the urgency of the decision on the basis of Rule 37(k).

Rule 59 – Report on the impact of opinions

At least once a year the Secretariat-General shall submit to the Plenary Assembly a report on the impact of Committee opinions on the basis, inter alia, of contributions sent to it to this effect by each competent commission and information collected from the institutions concerned.

Rule 60 – Rapporteurs

1. Each commission, acting on a proposal from its chair, shall appoint a rapporteur or, in duly motivated cases, two rapporteurs from among its members or duly mandated alternates to draw up a draft opinion.

2. In appointing rapporteurs each commission ensures a fair and balanced allocation of opinions.
3. In urgent cases the commission chair may apply a written procedure to appoint a rapporteur. The chair shall ask the members of the commission to submit any objections to the appointment of the proposed rapporteur in writing within three working days. In the event of objection, the chair and first vice-chair shall decide by mutual agreement.
4. If the chair or one of the vice-chairs of a commission is appointed rapporteur, they shall, during the discussion of their draft opinion, hand over the chairmanship of the meeting to a vice-chair or to another member present.
5. If a rapporteur ceases to be a member or alternate of the Committee, a new rapporteur of the same political group shall be appointed within the commission, if necessary by following the procedure provided for in paragraph 3.

Rule 61 – Commission working groups

1. In duly motivated cases the commissions may set up working groups, with the approval of the Bureau. Working group members may also come from other commissions.
2. A working group member who is unable to attend a meeting may be replaced by a member or alternate from their political group from the list of replacements for the working group. When a replacement is not available from this list, this member can be replaced by any member or alternate from their political group.
3. Each working group can appoint a chair and a vice-chair from among its members.
4. Working groups can adopt conclusions to report back to their commissions.

Rule 62 – Rapporteurs' experts

1. Each rapporteur may call on the services of an expert.
2. Rapporteurs' experts and experts invited by the commission shall be entitled to travel and subsistence expenses.
3. Experts do not represent the Committee, and do not speak on its behalf.

Rule 63 – Quorum

1. A quorum shall exist at a commission meeting if more than one half of its members are present.
2. The quorum shall be verified at the request of a member if at least ten members vote in favour of the request. If the verification of a quorum is not requested, all votes shall be valid regardless of the number of members present. The chair may interrupt the commission meeting for up to ten minutes before proceeding with a verification of the quorum. Members who have requested verification of the quorum but are no longer present in the commission chamber shall be considered to be present for the purposes of the count. If fewer than ten members are present, the chair may rule that there is no quorum.
3. If it is established that there is no quorum, the commission may address the remaining items on the agenda that do not require a vote, postponing discussion and voting on the suspended agenda items to the next meeting. All decisions or votes taken at the meeting before the verification of the quorum shall remain valid.

Rule 64 – Amendments

1. Amendments must be submitted before 3 p.m. on the ninth working day before the date of the meeting. In exceptional cases the above time limit may be amended by the chair.

Commission amendments may be tabled only by the members of that commission, or members or alternates duly mandated under the conditions set out in Rule 6(2), and, for their own opinion, by any non-mandated alternate appointed as rapporteur, or by a political group.

The right to table commission amendments may only be exercised either by a member of that commission or by another duly mandated member or alternate. If a member delegates all or part of a commission meeting to an alternate, only one of them can table amendments. If the member tables any amendments to any part of the commission meeting, then the alternate cannot do so afterwards. Similarly, if the alternate is delegated for any part of the commission meeting and tables any amendments to an opinion – before the member has tabled any amendments, then the member cannot table any amendments to the commission meeting. Amendments validly tabled by a member or alternate who subsequently loses that office, or before the granting or withdrawal of a delegation, shall remain valid.

The amendments shall be translated as a matter of priority and sent to the rapporteur to allow him or her to submit their rapporteur's amendments to the Secretariat-General in electronic form no later than three working days before the date of the meeting. The rapporteur's amendments must be associated and related to one or more amendments referred to in paragraph 1. These rapporteur's amendments shall be electronically retrievable as soon as they have been translated and must be distributed in written form at the latest at the opening of the meeting.

The provisions of Rule 25(1) to (6) shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

2. Voting on amendments shall follow the order of the points in the draft opinion under discussion.
3. The final vote shall be on the text as a whole, whether amended or not. If an opinion does not obtain a majority of the votes cast, the commission shall decide either to:
 - re-submit the draft opinion for debate and adoption, as modified by the amendments adopted in commission, having regard to provisions of Rule 53,
 - appoint a new rapporteur and thus re-launch the process of drafting the opinion, or
 - give up the opinion.
4. Once a draft opinion has been adopted by a commission, it shall be forwarded by the commission chair to the President of the Committee.

Rule 65 – Decision not to draw up an opinion

1. Where the commission responsible considers that a consultation referred to it under Rule 41(a) has no regional or local interest, or is not of political importance, it may decide not to draw up an opinion. The Secretary-General informs the relevant European institutions about this decision.
2. Where the commission responsible considers that a consultation referred to it under Rule 41(a) is important, but, for reasons of priority and/or because relevant opinions have already been adopted in the recent past, a new opinion is not considered necessary, the commission may decide not to issue an opinion. In this case, the Committee may respond to the European Union institutions by means of a motivated renunciation.

Rule 66 – Written procedure

1. In exceptional circumstances, the commission chair may have resort to a written procedure for the adoption of a decision on the operation of their commission.
2. The chair shall send the proposal for a decision to the members and ask to be sent any objections in writing within three working days.
3. The decision shall be deemed to be adopted unless objections are received from at least six members.

Rule 67 – Provisions applicable to commissions

Rule 12 – Convening the first meeting

Rule 13(2) – Installation in office of the Committee and verification of credentials

Rule 16(7) – Agenda for the Plenary Session

Rule 18 – Admission of the public, guests and guest speakers

Rule 21 – Points of order

Rule 23 – Voting and

Rule 26 – Coherence of a final text

shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the commissions.

CHAPTER 6**ADMINISTRATION OF THE COMMITTEE****Rule 68 – Secretariat-General**

1. The Committee shall be assisted by a Secretariat-General.
2. The Secretariat-General shall be headed by a Secretary-General.
3. The Bureau, acting on a proposal from the Secretary-General, shall organise the Secretariat-General in such a way that it can ensure the efficient functioning of the Committee and its constituent bodies and help the members of the Committee in the performance of their duties. The services to be provided by the Secretariat-General for members, national delegations, political groups and non-attached members shall be determined in the process.
4. The Secretariat-General shall draw up the minutes of the meetings of the Committee's constituent bodies.

Rule 69 – Secretary-General

1. The Secretary-General shall have the administrative responsibility for implementing the decisions taken by the Bureau or the President pursuant to these Rules of Procedure and the applicable legal provisions. The Secretary-General shall attend the meetings of the Bureau in an advisory capacity and shall keep the minutes of those meetings. The Secretary-General shall assist the President in assuring the security and the inviolability of the premises of the Committee.
2. The Secretary-General shall discharge his or her duties under the direction of the President, representing the Bureau. The Secretary-General shall give a solemn undertaking before the Bureau to perform his or her duties conscientiously and with absolute impartiality. He or she must not represent politically the Committee without prior authorisation by the President. Each year, the Secretary-General shall make available to the Bureau the annual activity report setting out the discharge of his or her activities as authorising officer by delegation and shall submit a summary of that report for possible discussion.

Rule 70 – Engagement of Secretary-General

1. The Bureau shall engage the Secretary-General on the basis of a decision adopted by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, the existence of a quorum having been verified in accordance with the first sentence of Rule 38(2).
2. The Secretary-General shall be engaged for five years. The detailed provisions of the contract of employment shall be laid down by the Bureau, pursuant to the provisions of Article 2 and related provisions of the Conditions of Employment of other servants of the European Union.

The Secretary-General's term of office may be extended once only for a maximum of five years.

The functions of the Secretary-General, in the event of absence or impediment, are exercised by a Director designated by the Bureau.

3. The powers which the Conditions of Employment of other servants of the European Union confer on the authority responsible for concluding contracts shall be exercised, in the case of the Secretary-General, by the Bureau.

Rule 71 – Staff Regulations of officials and Conditions of Employment of other servants

1. The powers which the Staff Regulations of officials of the European Union confer on the appointing authority shall be exercised as follows:
 - for officials in Grades 5 to 12 of function group AD and for officials in function groups AST and AST-SC, by the Secretary-General,
 - for other officials, by the Bureau, acting on a proposal from the Secretary-General.
2. The powers which the Conditions of Employment of other servants of the European Union confer on the authority competent to conclude contracts of employment shall be exercised as follows:
 - for temporary staff in Grades 5 to 12 of function group AD and for temporary staff in function groups AST and AST-SC, by the Secretary-General,
 - for other temporary staff, by the Bureau, acting on a proposal from the Secretary-General,
 - for temporary staff in the private office of the President or the first Vice-President:
 - for grades 5 to 12 of function group AD and function groups AST and AST-SC, by the Secretary-General, acting on a proposal from the President,
 - for other grades in function group AD, by the Bureau, acting on a proposal from the President.

Temporary staff employed in the private office of the President or the first Vice-President shall be engaged until the end of the President's or the first Vice-President's term of office:

- for contract staff, special advisers and local staff, by the Secretary-General in accordance with the conditions set out in the Conditions of Employment of other servants of the European Communities.
3. The Bureau and the Secretary-General may delegate the powers vested in them by this rule. Decisions to delegate shall specify the scope of the powers delegated, within their limits and period of validity, as well as stating whether they may be subdelegated.

Rule 72 – Meetings in camera

The Bureau shall meet in camera when it takes the decisions concerning persons referred to in Rules 70 and 71.

Rule 73 – Budget

1. The Commission for Financial and Administrative Affairs shall submit the preliminary draft estimates of the Committee's expenditure and revenue for the following financial year to the Bureau. The Bureau shall submit the draft to the Plenary Assembly for adoption.

The President, after consulting the Conference of Presidents, will submit to the Bureau the overall strategic guidelines to be presented to the Commission on Financial and Administrative Affairs for the elaboration of the budget for the year $n+2$.

2. The Plenary Assembly shall adopt the estimates of the Committee's expenditure and revenue and forward them to the Commission, Council and European Parliament in good time to ensure that the deadlines laid down in the financial provisions are met.

3. The Committee President, after consulting the Commission for Financial and Administrative Affairs, shall execute, or cause to be executed, the statement of revenue and expenditure, in accordance with the internal financial rules adopted by the Bureau. He or she shall perform these functions in accordance with the provisions of the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Union.
4. Pursuant to the Financial Regulation and internal financial rules, the President's powers of budget implementation are delegated to the Secretary-General, who becomes authorising officer by delegation upon appointment.

TITLE III

GENERAL PROVISIONS

CHAPTER 1

COOPERATION, FORWARDING AND PUBLICATION

Rule 74 – Cooperation agreements

The Bureau, acting on a proposal from the Secretary-General, may conclude cooperation agreements aimed at facilitating the exercise of the Committee's powers in connection with the application of the Treaties or in order to improve its political cooperation.

Rule 75 – Forwarding and publication of opinions and resolutions

1. The Committee's opinions, as well as any communication relating to the use of a simplified procedure under Rule 28 or a decision not to draw up an opinion under Rule 65, shall be addressed to the Council, Commission and European Parliament. As in the case of resolutions, they shall be forwarded by the President.
2. The opinions and resolutions of the Committee shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

CHAPTER 2

OPENNESS TO THE PUBLIC, TRANSPARENCY AND DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' FINANCIAL INTEREST

Rule 76 – Public access to documents

1. Any citizen of the Union and any natural or legal person residing or established in a Member State has a right of access to the documents of the Committee of the Regions in accordance with Article 15(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the principles, conditions and limits laid down in Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁽¹⁾ and the arrangements laid down by the Committee Bureau. Access to Committee documents shall as far as possible be granted in the same way to other natural or legal persons.
2. The Committee shall establish a register of Committee documents. The Bureau shall adopt the internal rules governing access and shall draw up a list of directly accessible documents.

Rule 77 – Declaration of Members' financial interest and Code of Conduct with respect to financial interests and conflicts of interests

On taking up their duties at the Committee, members shall complete a declaration of financial interests in accordance with the model adopted by the Bureau, which they shall keep up to date and which shall be accessible to the public. In exercising their duties, members shall also observe the Code of Conduct with respect to financial interests and conflicts of interests.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents (OJ L 145, 31.5.2001, p. 43).

CHAPTER 3

USE OF LANGUAGES**Rule 78 – Interpreting arrangements**

The following principles shall as far as possible be observed in relation to interpreting arrangements:

- (a) The Committee's debates shall be accessible in the official languages unless the Bureau decides otherwise.
- (b) All members shall have the right to address the Plenary Session in whichever official language they choose. Statements in one of the official languages shall be interpreted into the other official languages and any other language the Bureau considers necessary. This shall also apply to languages for which this possibility has been provided for in administrative agreements between the Committee and various Member States.
- (c) At Bureau, commission and working party meetings, interpreting shall be available from and into the languages used by the members that have confirmed they will attend the meeting.

CHAPTER 4

OBSERVERS**Rule 79 – Observers**

1. Where a Treaty on the accession of a State to the European Union has been signed, the President, after obtaining the agreement of the Bureau, may invite the government of the acceding State to appoint a number of observers equal to the number of future seats in the Committee allocated to that State.
2. Those observers shall take part in whole or in part in the proceedings of the Committee pending the entry into force of the Treaty of Accession, and shall have a right to speak in its constituent bodies.

They shall not have the right to vote or to stand for election to positions in the Committee. Their participation shall not have any legal effect on the Committee's proceedings.

3. Their treatment shall be assimilated to that of a member as regards the use of the Committee's facilities and the reimbursement of expenses incurred in their activities as observers, within the limits of the financial resources allocated to the corresponding budget line to that purpose.

CHAPTER 5

ORGANISATIONAL PROVISIONS**Rule 80 – Holding of meetings**

1. The statutory meetings of the following bodies and structures shall be organised in person:
 - (a) the Plenary Assembly
 - (b) the Bureau
 - (c) the Conference of Presidents
 - (d) the commissions
 - (e) the Commission for Financial and Administrative Affairs
 - (f) the ad hoc commission on the revision of the Rules of Procedure

(g) joint consultative committees, working groups and other political bodies set up by the Bureau pursuant to Rule 37 (e) and Rule 37 (j) and dealing with third countries

(h) the political groups.

2. Provided the budgetary and technical means are available, the chairs of the bodies and structures above may allow exceptional digital participation of a rapporteur who is unable to attend a meeting in person, but is able to take part remotely and whose opinion's timeline could not be adapted due to legislative timeline constraints.
3. Other meetings may be held in hybrid or remote form following the procedures foreseen in the Rules of Procedure for convening the relevant meeting. Budgetary, environmental or organisational reasons will be taken into consideration and the Commission for Financial and Administrative Affairs consulted where relevant.

CHAPTER 6

EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Rule 81 – Extraordinary measures

1. If the Committee of the Regions is hindered from carrying out its duties and exercising its prerogatives under the Treaties due to exceptional and unforeseeable circumstances beyond its control, a temporary derogation from some of the Committee's rules may be applied to enable the Committee to continue to carry out those duties and to exercise those prerogatives.

Such circumstances shall be considered to exist where the President comes to the conclusion, based on reliable evidence provided by the Secretary general, that for reasons of security or safety, or as a result of the non-availability of technical means, it is or will be impossible or dangerous for the Committee to convene or function in accordance with its usual rules and procedures.

2. Where the conditions set out in paragraph 1 are fulfilled, the President may decide, with the agreement of the Conference of Presidents and after having consulted, where possible, the chairs of the relevant bodies, to apply one or more of the following extraordinary measures:
 - (a) cancellation or postponement of a scheduled plenary session, a meeting of another constituent body or any other activity;
 - (b) holding of a plenary session, a meeting of another constituent body or any other activity under the remote attendance regime laid down in Rule 82;
 - (c) other measures as appropriate and necessary having regard to the specific and exceptional circumstances.
3. Any extraordinary measures adopted in accordance with paragraph 2 shall be limited in time, for a renewable period of up to four months, and scope to the extent necessary to address the specific and exceptional circumstances.

The decision adopting the extraordinary measures shall enter into force upon its publication on the Committee's website or, if circumstances prevent such publication, by the best available means, and shall state the reasons on which it is based. All members shall be informed of the decision without delay.

The President shall revoke any measures adopted under this rule as soon as the exceptional circumstances referred to in paragraph 1 that gave rise to their adoption have ceased to exist.

Rule 82 – Remote attendance regime

1. Where the President decides in accordance with Rule 81(2)(b) to apply the remote attendance regime, the Committee may conduct its proceedings remotely, inter alia, by permitting its members to exercise certain of their rights by electronic means.

2. The remote attendance regime shall ensure to the greatest possible extent that members are able to perform their duties including, in particular:
 - the right to speak and listen in plenary sessions and in meetings of other constituent bodies, also in accordance with the provisions of Rule 78,
 - the right to cast their votes individually and to verify that their votes are counted.
3. When taking the decision referred to in paragraph 1, the President shall determine whether that regime applies only to the plenary sessions, or also to the meetings of other constituent bodies and to any other activity of the Committee.
4. For the application of the rules relating to the establishment of a quorum and to voting in constituent bodies, members who are participating remotely shall be deemed to be physically present.

The President shall, where necessary, determine the manner and extent to which the meeting chamber may be accessed by members during the application of the remote attendance regime, and in particular the maximum number of members who may be physically present.

CHAPTER 7

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rule 83 – Revision of Rules of Procedure

1. The Plenary Assembly shall decide by a majority of the votes cast if there is a need to amend these Rules of Procedure, either in part or in full. The Bureau issues every half term of the Committee's mandate period a recommendation to the Plenary Assembly whether a review of the Rules of Procedure is advisable.
2. It shall appoint an ad hoc commission to draw up a report and a draft text as a basis for the adoption of new rules by a majority of its members. The new rules shall enter into force the day after their publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Rule 84 – Bureau instructions

The Bureau may give instructions determining the procedure for implementing the provisions of these Rules of Procedure, in compliance with the latter.

Rule 85- Entry into force of Rules of Procedure

The Rules of Procedure shall enter into force the day after their publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

ACTS ADOPTED BY BODIES CREATED BY INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

DECISION No 2/2023 OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED BY THE AGREEMENT ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE EUROPEAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMUNITY

of 3 July 2023

adding two newly adopted Union acts to Annex 2 to the Windsor Framework (2023/1522)

THE JOINT COMMITTEE,

Having regard to the Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community ⁽¹⁾ (the 'Withdrawal Agreement'), and in particular Article 13(4) of the Windsor Framework ⁽²⁾,

Whereas:

- (1) Article 13(4) of the Windsor Framework empowers the Joint Committee established under Article 164(1) of the Withdrawal Agreement (the 'Joint Committee') to adopt decisions adding newly adopted Union acts falling within the scope of the Windsor Framework to the relevant Annexes to the Windsor Framework. Pursuant to Article 166(2) of the Withdrawal Agreement, the decisions adopted by the Joint Committee are binding on the Union and the United Kingdom. The Union and the United Kingdom are to implement such decisions, which have the same legal effect as the Withdrawal Agreement.
- (2) Two newly adopted Union acts should be added to Annex 2 to the Windsor Framework,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

1. Regulation (EU) 2023/1182 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 June 2023 on specific rules relating to medicinal products for human use intended to be placed on the market in Northern Ireland and amending Directive 2001/83/EC ⁽³⁾, insofar as it does not amend Directive 2001/83/EC, shall be added to Annex 2 to the Windsor Framework under point 20 'Medicinal products'.

2. Regulation (EU) 2023/1231 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 June 2023 on specific rules relating to the entry into Northern Ireland from other parts of the United Kingdom of certain consignments of retail goods, plants for planting, seed potatoes, machinery and certain vehicles operated for agricultural or forestry purposes, as well as non-commercial movements of certain pet animals into Northern Ireland ⁽⁴⁾ shall be added to Annex 2 to the Windsor Framework under point 44 'Sanitary and phytosanitary – Other'.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 29, 31.1.2020, p. 7.

⁽²⁾ Joint Declaration No 1/2023 of the Union and the United Kingdom in the Joint Committee established by the Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community of 24 March 2023 (OJ L 102, 17.4.2023, p. 87).

⁽³⁾ OJ L 157, 20.6.2023, p. 1.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 165, 29.6.2023, p. 103.

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on the day following that of its adoption.

Done at Brussels, 3 July 2023.

For the Joint Committee

The Co-chairs

Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ

James CLEVERLY

**DECISION No 3/2023 OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED BY THE AGREEMENT ON THE
WITHDRAWAL OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE EUROPEAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMUNITY**

of 3 July 2023

**amending Part I of Annex I to the Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great
Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy
Community [2023/1523]**

THE JOINT COMMITTEE,

Having regard to the Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community ⁽¹⁾ (the 'Withdrawal Agreement'), and in particular Article 36(4) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Article 36(4) of the Withdrawal Agreement empowers the Joint Committee established under Article 164(1) thereof (the 'Joint Committee') to adopt decisions amending Part I of Annex I to that Agreement, to reflect any new Decision or Recommendation approved by the Administrative Commission for the Coordination of Social Security Systems. Pursuant to Article 166(2) of the Withdrawal Agreement, the decisions adopted by the Joint Committee are binding on the Union and the United Kingdom. The Union and the United Kingdom must implement such decisions, which shall have the same legal effect as the Withdrawal Agreement.
- (2) In the interest of legal certainty, Part I of Annex I to the Withdrawal Agreement should be amended by adding two decisions of the Administrative Commission for the Coordination of Social Security Systems and by deleting three decisions which were replaced by the two new decisions,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Withdrawal Agreement shall be amended as follows:

- (1) in Part I of Annex I to the Withdrawal Agreement, Decision No H12 of 19 October 2021 concerning the date to be taken into consideration for determining the rates of conversion referred to in Article 90 of Regulation (EC) No 987/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽²⁾ shall be added under 'Horizontal issues (H series)';
- (2) in Part I of Annex I to the Withdrawal Agreement, Decision No H13 of 30 March 2022 concerning the composition and working methods of the Audit Board of the Administrative Commission for the Coordination of Social Security Systems ⁽³⁾ shall be added under 'Horizontal issues (H series)';
- (3) in Part I of Annex I to the Withdrawal Agreement, the following acts shall be deleted:
 - (a) Decision No H3 of 15 October 2009 concerning the date to be taken into consideration for determining the rates of conversion referred to in Article 90 of Regulation (EC) No 987/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽⁴⁾, as amended by Decision No H7 of 25 June 2015 on the revision of the Decision No H3 concerning the date to be taken into consideration for determining the rates of conversion referred to in Article 90 of Regulation (EC) No 987/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽⁵⁾, which is replaced by Decision No H12 of 19 October 2021 concerning the date to be taken into consideration for determining the rates of conversion referred to in Article 90 of Regulation (EC) No 987/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council;

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 29, 31.1.2020, p. 7.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 93, 28.2.2022, p. 6.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 305, 10.8.2022, p. 4.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ C 106, 24.4.2010, p. 56.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ C 52, 11.2.2016, p. 13.

- (b) Decision No H4 of 22 December 2009 concerning the composition and working methods of the Audit Board of the Administrative Commission for the Coordination of Social Security Systems ⁽⁶⁾, which is replaced by Decision No H13 of 30 March 2022 concerning the composition and working methods of the Audit Board of the Administrative Commission for the Coordination of Social Security Systems;
- (c) Decision No H7 of 25 June 2015 on the revision of the Decision No H3 concerning the date to be taken into consideration for determining the rates of conversion referred to in Article 90 of Regulation (EC) No 987/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council which is replaced by Decision No H12 of 19 October 2021 concerning the date to be taken into consideration for determining the rates of conversion referred to in Article 90 of Regulation (EC) No 987/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on the day following that of its adoption.

Done at Brussels, 3 July 2023.

For the Joint Committee

The Co-chairs

Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ

James CLEVERLY

⁽⁶⁾ OJ C 107, 27.4.2010, p. 3.

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