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► **B** REGULATION (EU) No 652/2014 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

of 15 May 2014

laying down provisions for the management of expenditure relating to the food chain, animal health and animal welfare, and relating to plant health and plant reproductive material, amending Council Directives 98/56/EC, 2000/29/EC and 2008/90/EC, Regulations (EC) No 178/2002, (EC) No 882/2004 and (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Council Decisions 66/399/EEC, 76/894/EEC and 2009/470/EC

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**REGULATION (EU) No 652/2014 OF THE EUROPEAN  
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**TITLE I**

**COMMON PROVISIONS**

*CHAPTER I*

*Subject matter, scope and objectives*

*Article 1*

**Subject matter and scope**

This Regulation establishes provisions for the management of expenditure from the general budget of the European Union in the fields covered by Union rules:

- (a) governing food and food safety, at any stage of the production, processing, distribution and disposal of food, including rules aimed at guaranteeing fair practices in trade and protecting consumer interests and information, and the manufacture and use of materials and articles intended to come into contact with food;
- (b) governing feed and feed safety at any stage of the production, processing, distribution, disposal and use of feed, including rules aimed at guaranteeing fair practices in trade and protecting consumer interests and information;
- (c) laying down animal health requirements;
- (d) laying down welfare requirements for animals;
- (e) on protective measures against organisms harmful to plants or plant products as defined in point (e) of Article 2(1) of Directive 2000/29/EC ('pests');
- (f) on the production, with a view to placing on the market, and placing on the market of plant reproductive material;

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- (g) laying down the requirements for placing on the market of plant protection products and the sustainable use of pesticides;
- (h) aiming to prevent and minimise risks to public and animal health arising from animal by-products and derived products;
- (i) governing the deliberate release into the environment of genetically modified organisms;
- (j) on the protection of intellectual property rights in relation to plant varieties and conservation and exchange of plant genetic resources.

*Article 2***Objectives**

1. The expenditure referred to in Article 1 shall aim to attain:
  - (a) the general objective of contributing to a high level of health for humans, animals and plants along the food chain and in related areas, by preventing and eradicating diseases and pests and by ensuring a high level of protection for consumers and the environment, while enhancing the competitiveness of the Union food and feed industry and favouring the creation of jobs;
  - (b) the following specific objectives:
    - (i) to contribute to a high level of safety of food and food production systems and of other products which may affect the safety of food, while improving the sustainability of food production;
    - (ii) to contribute to achieving a higher animal health status for the Union and to support the improvement of the welfare of animals;
    - (iii) to contribute to the timely detection of pests and their eradication where those pests have entered the Union;
    - (iv) to contribute to improving the effectiveness, efficiency and reliability of official controls and other activities carried out with a view to the effective implementation of and compliance with the Union rules referred to in Article 1.
2. In order to measure the attainment of the specific objectives referred to in paragraph 1(b) the following indicators shall be used:
  - (a) for the specific objective in paragraph 1(b)(i), a reduction in the number of cases of diseases in humans in the Union which are linked to food safety or zoonoses;

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- (b) for the specific objective in paragraph 1(b)(ii):
- (i) an increase in the number of Member States or their regions which are free from animal diseases in respect of which a financial contribution is granted;
  - (ii) an overall reduction of disease parameters such as incidence, prevalence and number of outbreaks;
- (c) for the specific objective in paragraph 1(b)(iii):
- (i) the coverage of the Union territory by surveys for pests, in particular for pests not known to occur in the Union territory and pests considered to be most dangerous for the Union territory;
  - (ii) the time and success rate for the eradication of those pests;
- (d) for the specific objective in paragraph 1(b)(iv), a favourable trend in the results of controls in particular areas of concern carried out and reported on by Commission experts in the Member States.

*CHAPTER II**Forms of financing and general financial provisions**Article 3***Forms of financing**

1. Union financing for the expenditure referred to in Article 1 shall be implemented in accordance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.
2. When grants are awarded to the competent authorities of the Member States, they shall be considered to be identified beneficiaries within the meaning of Article 128(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012. Such grants may be awarded without a call for proposals.
3. The Union financial contribution for the measures referred to in this Regulation may also take the form of voluntary payments to international organisations, of which the Union is a member or in whose work it participates, that are active in the areas covered by the rules referred to in Article 1.

*Article 4***Budget**

1. The ceiling for the expenditure referred to in Article 1 for the period 2014 to 2020 shall be EUR 1 891 936 000 in current prices.

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2. The ceiling referred to in paragraph 1 may also cover expenses relating to preparatory, monitoring, control, audit and evaluation activities which are required for the management and the achievement of the objectives, of the expenditure referred to in Article 1, in particular regarding studies and meetings of experts, the expenses linked to IT networks focusing on information processing and exchange, and all other costs of technical and administrative assistance incurred by the Commission for the management of that expenditure.

3. The ceiling may also cover the technical and administrative assistance expenses necessary to ensure the transition from actions adopted before to actions adopted after the entry into force of this Regulation. If necessary, appropriations may be entered in the budget beyond 2020 to cover similar expenses in order to enable the management of actions not yet completed by 31 December 2020.

*Article 5***Maximum rates of grants**

1. Where the Union financial contribution takes the form of a grant, it shall not exceed 50 % of the eligible costs.

2. The maximum rate referred to in paragraph 1 may be increased to 75 % of the eligible costs in respect of:

- (a) cross-border activities implemented together by two or more Member States in order to control, prevent or eradicate pests or animal diseases;
- (b) Member States whose gross national income per inhabitant based on the latest Eurostat data is less than 90 % of the Union average.

3. The maximum rate referred to in paragraph 1 may be increased to 100 % of the eligible costs where the activities benefitting from the Union contribution concern the prevention and control of serious human, plant and animal health risks for the Union, and:

- (a) are designed to avoid human casualties or major economic disruptions for the Union as a whole;
- (b) are specific tasks which are indispensable for the Union as a whole as laid down by the Commission in the work programme adopted in accordance with Article 36(1); or
- (c) are implemented in third countries.



TITLE II  
**FINANCIAL PROVISIONS**

*CHAPTER I*  
***Animal health***

Section 1  
**Emergency Measures**

*Article 6*  
**Eligible measures**

1. Grants may be awarded to Member States up to the maximum rates set in Article 5(1) to (3) in respect of the measures taken as a result of the confirmation that one of the animal diseases listed pursuant to Article 7 has occurred, provided that the measures have been applied immediately and the applicable provisions laid down in the relevant Union law have been complied with. Such grants may also include costs incurred as a result of a suspected occurrence of such a disease, provided that the occurrence is subsequently confirmed.

2. Grants may be awarded to Member States where, following the confirmation of the occurrence of one of the animal diseases listed pursuant to Article 7, two or more Member States collaborate closely to control the epidemic.

3. Grants may be awarded to Member States, third countries and international organisations in respect of protection measures taken in the case of a direct threat to the health status of the Union as a result of the occurrence or development, in the territory of a third country or a Member State, of one of the animal diseases and zoonoses listed pursuant to Articles 7 or 10.

4. Grants may be awarded to Member States where the Commission decides, at the request of a Member State, that they must establish stocks of biological products intended for the control of the animal diseases and zoonoses listed pursuant to Article 7 or 10.

5. A Union financial contribution may be awarded for the establishment of stocks of biological products or the acquisition of vaccine doses if the occurrence or the development in a third country or Member State of one of the animal diseases and zoonoses listed pursuant to Article 7 or 10 might constitute a threat to the Union.

*Article 7*  
**List of animal diseases**

1. The list of animal diseases which qualify for funding under Article 6 is set out in Annex I.

2. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts, in accordance with Article 40, in order to supplement the list of animal diseases referred to in paragraph 1, taking into account the animal diseases which are required to be notified in accordance with Directive 82/894/EEC and the diseases which are likely to constitute a new threat for the Union due to their significant impact on:

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- (a) human health;
- (b) animal health or animal welfare; or
- (c) the agricultural or aquaculture production or related sectors of the economy.

*Article 8***Eligible costs**

1. The following costs incurred by the Member States in carrying out the measures referred to in Article 6(1) may qualify for funding under that paragraph:

- (a) costs of compensation to owners for the value of their animals slaughtered or culled, limited to the market value of such animals if they had not been affected by the disease;
- (b) costs of slaughtering or culling the animals and related transport costs;
- (c) costs of compensation to owners for the value of their destroyed products of animal origin, limited to the market value of those products immediately before any suspicion of the disease arose or was confirmed;
- (d) costs of cleaning, desinsectisation and disinfection of holdings and equipment, based on the epidemiology and characteristics of the pathogen;
- (e) costs for the transport and the destruction of the contaminated feeding stuffs and, where it can not be disinfected, contaminated equipment;
- (f) costs of purchase, storage, administration or distribution of vaccines and baits as well as the costs of inoculation itself, if the Commission decides or authorises such actions;
- (g) costs of transport and disposal of carcasses;
- (h) in exceptional and duly justified cases, any other costs essential for the eradication of the disease, as provided for in the financing decision referred to in Article 36(4) of this Regulation.

2. As referred to in Article 130(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, costs shall be eligible from the date of notification of the occurrence of the disease by the Member States to the Commission. Such costs may also include costs incurred as a result of a suspected occurrence of such a disease, provided that that occurrence is subsequently confirmed.

3. After assessment of the payment applications submitted by the Member States, the Commission shall make the corresponding budgetary commitments and shall pay the eligible expenditure.



## Section 2

### **Programmes for the eradication, control and surveillance of animal diseases and zoonoses**

#### *Article 9*

##### **Eligible programmes**

Grants may be awarded to Member States' annual or multiannual national programmes for the eradication, control and surveillance of the animal diseases and zoonoses listed pursuant to Article 10 ('national programmes').

#### *Article 10*

##### **List of animal diseases and zoonoses**

1. The list of animal diseases and zoonoses which qualify for grants under Article 9 is set out in Annex II.

2. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts, in accordance with Article 40, in order to supplement the list of animal diseases and zoonoses referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, taking into account:

- (a) the situation of animal diseases that have a significant impact on livestock production or trade;
- (b) the development of zoonoses which pose a threat to humans; or
- (c) new scientific or epidemiological developments.

#### *Article 11*

##### **Eligible costs**

The following costs incurred by the Member States in implementing the national programmes may qualify for grants under Article 9:

- (a) costs of sampling animals;
- (b) costs of tests, provided that they are limited to:
  - (i) costs of test kits, reagents, and consumables which are identifiable and specifically used for carrying out those tests;
  - (ii) costs of personnel, regardless of their status, directly involved in carrying out the tests;
- (c) costs of compensation to owners for the value of their animals slaughtered or culled, limited to the market value of such animals if they had not been affected by the disease;
- (d) costs of slaughtering or culling of the animals;



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- (e) costs of compensation to owners for the value of their destroyed products of animal origin, limited to the market value of those products immediately before any suspicion of the disease arose or was confirmed;
- (f) costs of purchase, storage, inoculation, administration or distribution of vaccine doses or vaccine and baits used for the programmes;
- (g) costs of cleaning, disinfection, desinsectisation of the holding and equipment based on the epidemiology and characteristics of the pathogen; and
- (h) in exceptional and duly justified cases, the costs incurred in carrying out necessary measures other than those referred to in points (a) to (g), provided that such measures are set out in the grant decision referred to in Article 13(3) and (4).

For the purposes of point (c) of the first paragraph, the salvage value of the animals, if any, shall be deducted from the compensation.

For the purposes of point (d) of the first paragraph, the salvage value of heat-treated non-incubated eggs shall be deducted from the compensation.

*Article 12***Content and submission of the national programmes**

1. By 31 May, Member States shall submit to the Commission the national programmes which are due to start in the following year in respect of which they wish to apply for a grant.

National programmes submitted after 31 May shall not be eligible for financing in respect of the following year.

2. The national programmes shall contain at least the following:

- (a) a description of the epidemiological situation of the animal disease or zoonosis before the date of the beginning of the programme;
- (b) a description and demarcation of the geographical and administrative areas in which the programme is to be applied;
- (c) the duration of the programme;
- (d) the measures to be implemented;
- (e) the estimated budget;
- (f) the targets to be attained by the completion date of the programme and the anticipated benefits thereof; and
- (g) appropriate indicators to measure the achievement of the targets of the programme.

In each multiannual national programme, the information referred to in points (b), (d), and (f) of the first subparagraph shall be provided for each year covered by the programme, in the case of significant changes compared to the previous year. The information referred to in point (e) of that subparagraph shall be provided for each year covered by the programme.

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3. If the occurrence or the development of one of the animal diseases or zoonoses listed pursuant to Article 10 is likely to constitute a threat to the health status of the Union and in order to protect the Union from the introduction of one of those diseases or zoonoses, Member States may include in their national programmes measures to be implemented in territories of neighbouring third countries in cooperation with the authorities of those countries.

*Article 13***Evaluation and approval of the national programmes**

1. The Commission shall evaluate the national programmes taking into account the priorities and criteria set out in the annual or multi-annual work programmes referred to in Article 36(1).

2. The Commission shall communicate to Member States by 30 November each year:

- (a) the list of national programmes technically approved and proposed for co-financing;
- (b) the provisional amount allocated to each programme;
- (c) the provisional maximum level of the Union financial contribution for each programme; and
- (d) any provisional conditions to which the Union financial contribution may be subject.

3. The Commission shall approve the annual national programmes and associated funding by 31 January each year by means of a grant decision in relation to the measures implemented and the costs incurred from 1 January to 31 December of that year. Following submission of the intermediate reports as referred to in Article 14, the Commission may, if necessary, amend such decisions in relation to the whole eligibility period.

4. The Commission shall approve the multiannual national programmes and associated funding by 31 January of the first year of implementation by means of a grant decision in relation to the measures implemented and the costs incurred from 1 January of the first year of implementation until the end of the implementation period.

5. In the case of approval of multiannual national programmes in accordance with paragraph 4, budgetary commitments may be divided into annual instalments. Where budgetary commitments are so divided, the Commission shall commit the annual instalments taking into account the progress of the programmes, the estimated needs and the budget available.

*Article 14***Reporting**

For each approved annual or multiannual national programme, Member States shall submit to the Commission, by 30 April each year, an annual detailed technical and financial report covering the previous year. That report shall include the results achieved, measured on the basis of the indicators referred to in Articles 12(2)(g) and a detailed account of eligible costs incurred.

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In addition, for each approved annual national programme, Member States shall submit to the Commission, by 31 August each year, an intermediate financial report.

*Article 15***Payments**

The payment request for a given year in respect of a national programme shall be submitted by the Member State to the Commission by 30 April of the following year.

The Commission shall pay the Union financial contribution for the eligible costs following appropriate verification of the reports referred to in Article 14.

*CHAPTER II***Plant health**

## Section 1

**Emergency measures***Article 16***Eligible measures**

1. Grants may be awarded to Member States up to the maximum rates set in Article 5(1) to (3) for the following measures against pests, subject to the conditions laid down in Article 17:

- (a) measures to eradicate a pest from an infested area, taken by the competent authorities pursuant to Article 16(1) and (2) of Directive 2000/29/EC or pursuant to the Union measures adopted in accordance with Article 16(3) of that Directive;
- (b) measures to contain a pest, against which Union containment measures have been adopted pursuant to Article 16(3) of Directive 2000/29/EC, in an infested area from which that pest cannot be eradicated, where those measures are essential to protect the Union against further spread of that pest. Those measures shall exclusively concern the eradication of that pest from the buffer zone in case its presence is detected in that buffer zone;
- (c) additional protective measures taken against the spread of a pest, against which Union measures have been adopted pursuant to Article 16(3) of Directive 2000/29/EC, other than the eradication measures referred to in point (a) and the containment measures referred to in point (b), where those measures are essential to protect the Union against further spread of that pest.

Grants for measures referred to in points (a) and (b) of the first subparagraph may also be awarded for measures taken as a result of a suspected presence of such a pest, provided that that presence is subsequently confirmed.

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2. Grants referred to in paragraph 1 may also be awarded to a Member State in whose territory the pests referred to in paragraph 1 are not present, where measures have been taken against the entry of those pests into the territory of that Member State because of their presence in a neighbouring Member State or third country immediately adjacent to its border.

3. Grants may be awarded to Member States where, following the confirmation of the presence of one of the pests referred to in Article 17, two or more Member States collaborate closely in carrying out the measures referred to in paragraph 1.

4. Grants in respect of the measures referred to in points (a) to (c) of the first subparagraph of paragraph 1 may also be awarded to international organisations.

*Article 17***Conditions**

The measures referred to in Article 16 may qualify for grants provided that they have been applied immediately and the applicable provisions laid down in the relevant Union law have been complied with, and provided that one or more of the following conditions are fulfilled:

- (a) they concern pests listed in Section I of Part A of Annex I to Directive 2000/29/EC and Section I of Part A of Annex II thereto;
- (b) they concern pests covered by a measure adopted by the Commission pursuant to Article 16(3) of Directive 2000/29/EC;
- (c) they concern pests for which measures have been adopted pursuant to Directives 69/464/EEC, 93/85/EEC, 98/57/EC or 2007/33/EC; or
- (d) they concern pests, not listed in Annex I or Annex II to Directive 2000/29/EC, which are subject to a measure adopted by the competent authority of a Member State pursuant to Article 16(2) of Directive 2000/29/EC and which provisionally qualify for listing in Section I of Part A of Annex I to Directive 2000/29/EC or Section I of Part A of Annex II thereto.

For measures fulfilling the condition laid down in point (b) of the first paragraph, the grant shall not cover costs incurred after the expiry of the measure adopted by the Commission pursuant to Article 16(3) of Directive 2000/29/EC.

For measures fulfilling the condition laid down in point (d) of the first paragraph, the grant shall not cover costs incurred later than two years after the entry into force of the measure adopted by the competent authority of the Member State concerned, or incurred after the expiry of that measure.

*Article 18***Eligible costs**

1. The following costs incurred by Member States in carrying out the measures referred to in Article 16 may qualify for grants under that Article:

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- (a) costs of personnel, regardless of their status, directly involved in the measures, as well as costs of renting equipment, of consumables and of any other necessary materials, of treatment products, of sampling and of laboratory tests;
- (b) costs of service contracts with third parties to execute part of the measures;
- (c) costs of compensating the operators or owners concerned for the treatment, the destruction and subsequent removal of plants, of plant products and of other objects, and for the cleaning and disinfection of premises, land, water, soil, growing media, facilities, machinery and equipment;
- (d) costs of compensating the owners concerned for the value of the destroyed plants, plant products or other objects subject to the measures referred to in Article 16 of Directive 2000/29/EC, limited to the market value of such plants, plant products and other objects as if they had not been affected by those measures; the salvage value, if any, shall be deducted from the compensation; and
- (e) in exceptional and duly justified cases, the costs incurred in carrying out necessary measures other than those referred to in points (a) to (d), provided that such measures are set out in the financing decision referred to in Article 36(4).

The compensation to owners referred to in point (c) shall only be eligible if the measures have been carried out under the supervision of the competent authority.

2. As referred to in Article 130(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, costs shall be eligible from the date of notification of the presence of the pest by the Member States to the Commission. Such costs may also include costs incurred as a result of the suspected presence of that pest, provided that that presence is subsequently confirmed.

3. After assessment of the payment applications submitted by the Member States, the Commission shall make the corresponding budgetary commitments and the payment of eligible expenditure.

## Section 2

### **Survey programmes concerning the presence of pests**

#### *Article 19*

#### **Eligible survey programmes**

Grants may be awarded to Member States for annual and multiannual survey programmes that they carry out concerning the presence of pests ('survey programmes'), provided that those survey programmes comply with at least one of the following conditions:

- (a) they concern pests listed in Section I of Part A of Annex I to Directive 2000/29/EC and Section I of Part A of Annex II thereto;

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- (b) they concern pests covered by a measure adopted by the Commission pursuant to Article 16(3) of Directive 2000/29/EC.

For the pests referred to in point (a) of the first paragraph of this Article, the survey programmes shall be based on an assessment of the risk of the entry, establishment and spread of those pests in the territory of the Member State concerned and shall as a minimum target the pests that pose the main risks and the main plant species that are exposed to those risks.

For measures fulfilling the condition laid down in point (b) of the first paragraph of this Article, the grant shall not cover costs incurred after the expiry of the measure adopted by the Commission pursuant to Article 16(3) of Directive 2000/29/EC.

*Article 20***Eligible costs**

The following costs incurred by the Member States in implementing the survey programmes referred to in Article 19 may qualify for grants under that Article:

- (a) costs for sampling;
- (b) costs of tests, provided that they are limited to:
- (i) the costs of test kits, of reagents and of consumables which are identifiable and specifically used for carrying out the tests;
  - (ii) the costs of personnel, regardless of their status, directly involved in carrying out the tests;
- (c) in exceptional and duly justified cases, costs incurred in carrying out necessary measures other than those referred to in points (a) and (b), provided that such measures are set out in the grant decision referred to in Article 22(3) and (4).

*Article 21***Content and submission of the survey programmes**

1. By 31 May, Member States shall submit to the Commission the survey programmes which are due to start in the following year in respect of which they wish to apply for a grant.

Survey programmes submitted after 31 May shall not be eligible for financing in respect of the following year.

2. The survey programmes shall contain at least the following:

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- (a) the pests included in the programme;
- (b) a description and demarcation of the geographical and administrative areas in which the programme is to be applied and a description of the status of those areas as regards the presence of the pests concerned;
- (c) the duration of the programme;
- (d) the number of visual examinations, samples and tests scheduled for the pests and plants, plants products and other objects concerned;
- (e) the estimated budget;
- (f) the targets to be attained by the completion date of the programme and the anticipated benefits thereof; and
- (g) appropriate indicators to measure the achievement of the targets of the programme.

In each multiannual survey programme, the information referred to in points (b), (d), and (f) of the first subparagraph shall be provided for each year covered by the programme, in the case of significant changes compared to the previous year. The information referred to in point (e) of that subparagraph shall be provided for each year covered by the programme.

*Article 22***Evaluation and approval of the survey programmes**

1. The Commission shall evaluate the survey programmes taking into account the priorities and criteria set out in the annual or multiannual work programmes referred to in Article 36(1).
2. The Commission shall communicate to Member States by 30 November each year:
  - (a) the list of survey programmes technically approved and proposed for co-financing;
  - (b) the provisional amount allocated to each programme;
  - (c) the provisional maximum level of the Union financial contribution for each programme; and
  - (d) any provisional conditions to which the Union financial contribution may be subject.
3. The Commission shall approve the annual survey programmes and associated funding by 31 January each year by means of a grant decision in relation to the measures implemented and the costs incurred from 1 January to 31 December of that year. Following submission of the intermediate reports as referred to in Article 23, the Commission may, if necessary, amend such decisions in relation to the whole eligibility period.

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4. The Commission shall approve the multiannual survey programmes and associated funding by 31 January of the first year of implementation by means of a grant decision in relation to the measures implemented and the costs incurred from 1 January of the first year of implementation until the end of the implementation period.

5. In the case of approval of multiannual survey programmes in accordance with paragraph 4, budgetary commitments may be divided into annual instalments. Where budgetary commitments are so divided, the Commission shall commit the annual instalments taking into account the progress of the programmes, the estimated needs and the budget available.

*Article 23***Reporting**

For each approved annual or multiannual survey programme, Member States shall submit to the Commission, by 30 April each year, an annual detailed technical and financial report covering the previous year. That report shall include the results achieved, measured on the basis of the indicators referred to in Articles 21(2)(g) and a detailed account of eligible costs incurred. In addition, for each approved annual survey programme, Member States shall submit to the Commission, by 31 August each year, an intermediate financial report.

*Article 24***Payments**

The payment request for a given year in respect of a survey programme shall be submitted by the Member State to the Commission by 30 April of the following year.

The Commission shall pay the Union financial contribution for the eligible costs following appropriate verification of the reports referred to in Article 23.

**Section 3****Programmes concerning the control of pests in outermost regions of the Union***Article 25***Eligible measures and eligible costs**

1. Grants may be awarded to Member States for programmes that they carry out for the control of pests in the outermost regions of the Union referred to in Article 349 TFEU in line with the objectives set out in Article 2 of Regulation (EU) No 228/2013 ('programmes for the outermost regions'). Those grants shall concern activities necessary to ensure the correct implementation in those regions of the rules, whether they are Union rules or national rules, in force in those regions, on the control of pests.



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2. The following costs incurred by Member States for programmes for the outermost regions may qualify for a Union financial contribution:

- (a) costs of personnel, regardless of their status, directly involved in the implementation of the measures, as well as the costs of renting equipment, of consumables and of treatment products;
- (b) costs of service contracts with third parties to execute part of the measures;
- (c) costs of sampling;
- (d) costs of tests, provided that they are limited to:
  - (i) the costs of test kits, of reagents and of consumables which are identifiable and specifically used for carrying out the tests;
  - (ii) the costs of personnel, regardless of their status, directly involved in carrying out the tests.

*Article 26***Content and submission of the programmes for the outermost regions**

1. By 31 May Member States shall submit to the Commission the programmes for the outermost regions which are due to start in the following year in respect of which they wish to apply for a grant.

Programmes for the outermost regions submitted after 31 May shall not be eligible for financing in respect of the following year.

2. The programmes for the outermost regions shall contain at least the following:

- (a) the pests included in the programme;
- (b) a description and demarcation of the geographical and administrative areas in which the programme is to be applied and a description of the status of those areas as regards the presence of the pests concerned;
- (c) a technical analysis of the regional phytosanitary situation;
- (d) the duration of the programme;
- (e) the activities included in the programme and, where relevant, the number of visual examinations, samples and tests scheduled for the pests and plants, plants products and other objects concerned;
- (f) the estimated budget;
- (g) the targets to be attained by the completion date of the programme and the anticipated benefits thereof; and
- (h) appropriate indicators to measure the achievement of the targets of the programme.

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In each multiannual programme for the outermost regions, the information referred to in points (b), (e) and (g) of the first subparagraph shall be provided for each year covered by the programme, in the case of significant changes compared to the previous year. The information referred to in point (f) of that subparagraph shall be provided for each year covered by the programme.

*Article 27***Evaluation and approval of the programmes for the outermost regions**

1. The programmes for the outermost regions shall be evaluated taking into account the priorities and criteria set out in the annual or multiannual work programmes referred to in Article 36(1).
2. The Commission shall communicate to Member States by 30 November each year:
  - (a) the list of programmes for the outermost regions technically approved and proposed for co-financing;
  - (b) the provisional amount allocated to each programme;
  - (c) the provisional maximum level of the Union financial contribution for each programme; and
  - (d) any provisional conditions to which the Union financial contribution may be subject.
3. Annual programmes for the outermost regions and associated funding shall be approved by 31 January each year by means of a grant decision in relation to the measures implemented and the costs incurred from 1 January to 31 December of that year. Following submission of the intermediate reports as referred to in Article 28, the Commission may, if necessary, amend such decisions in relation to the whole eligibility period.
4. Multiannual programmes for the outermost regions and associated funding shall be approved by 31 January of the first year of implementation by means of a grant decision in relation to the measures implemented and the costs incurred from 1 January of the first year of implementation until the end of the implementation period.
5. In the case of approval of multiannual programmes for the outermost regions in accordance with paragraph 4, budgetary commitments may be divided into annual instalments. Where budgetary commitments are so divided, the Commission shall commit the annual instalments taking into account the progress of the programmes, the estimated needs and the budget available.

*Article 28***Reporting**

For each approved annual or multiannual programme for the outermost regions, Member States shall submit to the Commission, by 30 April each year, an annual detailed technical and financial report covering the previous year. That report shall include the results achieved, measured on the basis of the indicators referred to in point (h) of the first subparagraph of Article 26(2) and a detailed account of eligible costs incurred.

**▼B**

In addition, for each approved annual programme for the outermost regions, Member States shall submit to the Commission, by 31 August each year, an intermediate financial report.

*Article 29***Payments**

The payment request for a given year in respect of a programme for the outermost regions shall be submitted by the Member State to the Commission by 30 April of the following year.

The Commission shall pay the Union financial contribution for the eligible costs following appropriate verification of the reports referred to in Article 28.

*CHAPTER III**Financial support to official controls and other activities**Article 30***▼M1****European Union reference laboratories and centres**

1. Grants may be awarded to the European Union reference laboratories referred to in Article 32 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 and to the European Union reference centres referred to in Article 29 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1012 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>(1)</sup> for the costs that they incur in implementing the work programmes approved by the Commission.

**▼B**

2. The following costs may be eligible for grants under paragraph 1:

**▼M1**

(a) costs of personnel, regardless of their status, directly involved in activities of the laboratories or centres which are carried out in their capacity as European Union reference laboratory or centre;

**▼B**

(b) costs of capital equipment;

(c) cost of consumables;

(d) costs of shipment of samples, missions, meetings, training activities.

*Article 31***Training**

1. The Union may finance the training of the staff of the competent authorities responsible for official controls, as referred to in Article 51 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, in order to develop a harmonised

<sup>(1)</sup> Regulation (EU) 2016/1012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 June 2016 on zootechnical and genealogical conditions for the breeding, trade in and entry into the Union of purebred breeding animals, hybrid breeding pigs and the germinal products thereof and amending Regulation (EU) No 652/2014, Council Directives 89/608/EEC and 90/425/EEC and repealing certain acts in the area of animal breeding ('Animal Breeding Regulation') (OJ L 171, 29.6.2016, p. 66).

**▼B**

approach to official controls and other official activities to ensure a high level of protection of human, animal and plant health.

2. The Commission shall develop training programmes identifying the priorities for intervention, based on the identified risks for public health, animal health and welfare and plant health.

3. In order to be eligible for Union financing as referred to in paragraph 1, the competent authorities shall ensure that the knowledge acquired through the training activities referred to in that paragraph is disseminated as necessary and that it is appropriately used in the national training programmes.

4. The following costs may be eligible for the financial contribution referred to in paragraph 1:

- (a) cost of the organisation of the training, including training that is also open to participants from third countries, or exchange activities;
- (b) costs of travel, accommodation and daily subsistence of the personnel of the competent authorities taking part in the training.

*Article 32***Experts from the Member States**

A Union financial contribution may be granted for the travel, accommodation and daily subsistence expenses incurred by Member States' experts as a result of the Commission appointing them to assist its experts as provided for in Articles 45(1) and 46(1) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004.

*Article 33***Coordinated control plans and data collection**

1. Grants may be awarded to Member States for the costs incurred for the implementation of the coordinated control plans referred to in Article 53 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 and for data collection.

2. The following costs may qualify for such grants:

- (a) costs of sampling and laboratory tests,
- (b) cost of equipment necessary to perform the official control and data collection tasks.

*CHAPTER IV****Other measures****Article 34***Information systems**

1. The Union shall finance the establishment and operation of the data bases and computerised information management systems, managed by the Commission, which are necessary for the effective and efficient implementation of the rules referred to in Article 1.

**▼B**

2. A Union financial contribution may be granted for the establishment and management of data bases and computerised information management systems of third parties, including international organisations, provided that those data bases and computerised information management systems:

- (a) have a proven added value for the Union as a whole and are available across the Union to all interested users; and
- (b) are necessary for the effective and efficient implementation of the rules referred to in Article 1.

*Article 35***Implementation and adaptation of the rules**

1. The Union may finance technical and scientific work, including studies and coordination activities, necessary to ensure the correct implementation of the rules in respect of the fields referred to in Article 1 and the adaptation of those rules to scientific, technological and societal developments.

A Union financial contribution may also be granted to the Member States or international organisations operating in the fields referred to in Article 1 in order for them to undertake activities in support of the development and implementation of the rules in respect of those fields.

2. Grants may be awarded to projects organised by one or more Member States with the aim of improving, through the use of innovative techniques and protocols, the efficient performance of official controls.

3. A Union financial contribution may also be granted to support information and awareness raising initiatives by the Union and Member States aimed at ensuring improved, compliant and sustainable behaviour in the implementation of the rules in respect of the fields referred to in Article 1.

## TITLE III

**PROGRAMMING, IMPLEMENTATION AND CONTROL***Article 36***Work programmes and financial contributions**

1. The Commission shall adopt implementing acts, establishing common or separate annual or multiannual work programmes for the implementation of the measures referred to in Title II, except for Section 1 of Chapter I and Section 1 of Chapter II thereof. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 41(2).

2. The work programmes referred to in paragraph 1 shall set out the operational objectives pursued, which shall be in accordance with the general and specific objectives laid down in Article 2, the expected results, the method of implementation and their total amount. They shall also contain a description of the measures to be financed, an

**▼B**

indication of the amount allocated to each measure and an indicative implementation timetable. In respect of grants, they shall include the priority actions, the evaluation criteria, the funding rate and the indicative list of eligible measures and costs, in accordance with Article 3 of this Regulation.

3. The work programmes for implementing the measures referred to in Section 2 of Chapter I of Title II, and in Section 2 and Section 3 of Chapter II of Title II shall be adopted by 30 of April of the year preceding their execution, provided that the draft budget is adopted. Those work programmes shall reflect the priorities as laid down in Annex III to this Regulation.

4. With regard to the implementation of the emergency measures referred to in Section 1 of Chapter I of Title II and Section 1 of Chapter II of Title II, or where it is necessary to respond to unforeseeable developments, the Commission shall adopt implementing acts, setting out its decision on the financial contribution. Those implementing acts shall be adopted, in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 41(2).

5. The Commission shall adopt implementing acts laying down the procedures for submission by Member States of applications, reports and requests for payments for the grants referred to in Sections 1 and 2 of Chapter I, and Sections 1, 2 and 3 of Chapter II of Title II. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 41(2).

*Article 37***On-the-spot checks by the Commission**

The Commission may organise on-the-spot checks in Member States and at the premises of the beneficiaries with a view to verifying in particular:

- (a) the effective implementation of the measures benefitting from the Union financial contribution;
- (b) the compliance of administrative practices with Union rules;
- (c) the existence of the requisite supporting documents and their correlation with the measures benefitting from a Union contribution.

*Article 38***Access to information**

Member States and beneficiaries shall make available to the Commission all information necessary for verifying the implementation of the measures and shall take all appropriate measures to facilitate the checks which the Commission deems to be appropriate in connection with the management of Union financing, including on-the-spot checks.

*Article 39***Protection of the Union's financial interests**

1. The Commission shall take appropriate measures ensuring that, when measures financed under this Regulation are implemented, the financial interests of the Union are protected by the application of preventive measures against fraud, corruption and any other illegal activities, by effective checks and, where irregularities are detected, by the recovery of the amounts wrongly paid and, where appropriate, by effective, proportionate and dissuasive penalties.

**▼B**

2. The Commission, or its representatives, and the Court of Auditors shall have the power of audit, on the basis of documents and on-the-spot, over all grant beneficiaries, implementing bodies, contractors and subcontractors who have received Union funds under this Regulation.

The European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) shall be authorised to carry out on-the-spot checks and inspections on economic operators concerned directly or indirectly by such funding in accordance with the procedures laid down in Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96<sup>(1)</sup> with a view to establishing whether there has been fraud, corruption or any other illegal activity affecting the financial interests of the Union in connection with a grant agreement or decision or a contract concerning Union funding.

Without prejudice to the first and the second subparagraphs, cooperation agreements with third countries and international organisations, grant agreements, grant decisions and contracts resulting from the implementation of this Regulation shall expressly entitle the Commission, the Court of Auditors and OLAF to conduct such audits, on-the-spot checks and inspections.

## TITLE IV

## GENERAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

*Article 40***Exercise of the delegation**

1. The power to adopt delegated acts is conferred on the Commission subject to the conditions laid down in this Article.

2. The power to adopt delegated acts referred to in Article 7(2) and Article 10(2) shall be conferred on the Commission for a period of seven years from 30 June 2014. The Commission shall draw up a report in respect of the delegation of power not later than nine months before the end of the seven-year period. The delegation of power shall be tacitly extended for periods of an identical duration, unless the European Parliament or the Council opposes such extension not later than three months before the end of each period.

3. The delegation of power referred to in Article 7(2) and Article 10(2) may be revoked at any time by the European Parliament or by the Council. A decision to revoke shall put an end to the delegation of the power specified in that decision. It shall take effect the day following the publication of the decision in the *Official Journal of the European Union* or at a later date specified therein. It shall not affect the validity of any delegated acts already in force.

4. As soon as it adopts a delegated act, the Commission shall notify it simultaneously to the European Parliament and to the Council.

5. A delegated act adopted pursuant to Article 7(2) and Article 10(2) shall enter into force only if no objection has been expressed either by the European Parliament or the Council within a period of two months of notification of that act to the European Parliament and the Council or

<sup>(1)</sup> Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities (OJ L 292, 15.11.1996, p. 2).

**▼B**

if, before the expiry of that period, the European Parliament and the Council have both informed the Commission that they will not object. That period shall be extended by two months at the initiative of the European Parliament or of the Council.

*Article 41***Committee procedure**

1. The Commission shall be assisted by the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed established by Article 58(1) of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002. That Committee shall be a committee within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011.

2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 shall apply.

Where the opinion of the committee is to be obtained by written procedure, that procedure shall be terminated without result when, within the time-limit for delivery of the opinion, the chair of the committee so decides or a simple majority of committee members so requests.

*Article 42***Evaluation**

1. By 30 June 2017 the Commission shall establish and present to the European Parliament and to the Council a mid-term evaluation report on whether, in terms of their results and impacts, the measures referred to in Chapters I and II of Title II and in Articles 30 and 31 of Chapter III achieve the objectives set out in Article 2(1), as regards the efficiency of the use of resources and its added value, at Union level. The evaluation report shall also address the scope for simplification, the continued relevance of all objectives, and the contribution of the measures to the Union priorities of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. It shall take into account evaluation results on the long-term impact of the predecessor measures. The report shall be accompanied, if appropriate, by a legislative proposal to amend this Regulation.

2. By 30 June 2022 the Commission shall carry out an *ex-post* evaluation of the measures referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article in close cooperation with the Member States. That *ex-post* evaluation shall examine the effectiveness and efficiency of the expenditure referred to in Article 1 and its impact.

3. The evaluations referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article shall take account of the progress made by using the indicators referred to in Article 2(2).

4. The Commission shall communicate the conclusions of the evaluations referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions.





#### *Article 43*

##### **Information, communication and publicity**

1. Where appropriate, beneficiaries and Member States concerned shall ensure that suitable publicity is given to financial contributions granted under this Regulation in order to inform the public of the role of the Union in the funding of the measures.
2. The Commission shall implement information and communication actions on the measures funded and results. Moreover, budget allocated to communication under this Regulation shall also cover corporate communication on the political priorities of the Union.

#### *Article 44*

##### **Repeals**

1. Decisions 66/399/EEC, 76/894/EEC and 2009/470/EC are repealed.
2. References to Decisions 66/399/EEC and 76/894/EEC shall be construed as references to Article 58(1) of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002.
3. References to Decision 2009/470/EC shall be construed as references to this Regulation.

#### *Article 45*

##### **Transitional provisions**

1. The Member States' national programmes referred to in Article 12(1) of this Regulation, submitted to the Commission in 2012 for implementation in 2013, those submitted in 2013 for implementation in 2014, and those submitted by 30 April 2014 for implementation in 2015, shall, if approved, be eligible for Union funding on the basis of Article 27 of Decision 2009/470/EC.

For national programmes implemented in 2013 and 2014, Article 27(7) and (8) of that Decision shall continue to apply.

For national programmes implemented in 2015, Article 27(2) of that Decision shall continue to apply.

2. The survey programmes of Member States referred to in Article 21(1) of this Regulation, submitted to the Commission by 30 April 2014 for implementation in the year 2015, shall be eligible for Union funding on the basis of Article 23(6) of Directive 2000/29/EC. For those survey programmes, Article 23(6) of that Directive shall continue to apply.

3. For applications of Member States for Union funding for the emergency measures referred to in Article 16 of this Regulation, submitted to the Commission by 30 April 2014, Articles 22 to 24 of Directive 2000/29/EC shall continue to apply.

#### *Article 46*

##### **Amendment of Directive 98/56/EC**

Directive 98/56/EC is amended as follows:

**▼B**

(1) In Article 17, paragraph 1 is replaced by the following:

‘1. The Commission shall be assisted by the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed established by Article 58(1) of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council (\*). That Committee shall be a committee within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council (\*\*).

(\*) Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety (OJ L 31, 1.2.2002, p. 1).

(\*\*) Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by the Member States of the Commission’s exercise of implementing powers (OJ L 55, 28.2.2011, p. 13).’

(2) In Article 18, paragraph 1 is replaced by the following:

‘1. The Commission shall be assisted by the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed established by Article 58(1) of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002. That Committee shall be a committee within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011.’

*Article 47***Amendment of Directive 2000/29/EC**

Directive 2000/29/EC is amended as follows:

(1) In Article 13c, paragraph 5 is deleted.

**▼M2**

(2) The following Article is inserted:

*Article 15a*

Member States shall provide that anyone who becomes aware of the presence of a pest listed in Annex I or Annex II or a pest covered by a measure pursuant to Article 16(2) or 16(3), or has reason to suspect such a presence, shall immediately notify the competent authority, and, if so requested by that competent authority, shall provide the information concerning that presence which is in its possession. Where the notification is not submitted in writing, the competent authority shall officially record it.’

**▼B**

(3) Articles 22 to 26 are deleted.

*Article 48***Amendment of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002**

In Article 58 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, paragraph 1 is replaced by the following:

‘1. The Commission shall be assisted by a Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed, hereinafter referred to as the ‘Committee’. That Committee shall be a committee within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council (\*). The Committee shall be organised in sections to deal with all relevant matters.

**▼B**

All references in Union law to the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health shall be construed as references to the Committee referred to in the first subparagraph.

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- (\*) Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by the Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers (OJ L 55, 28.2.2011, p. 13).<sup>7</sup>.

*Article 49***Amendment of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004**

Article 66 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 is deleted.

*Article 50***Amendment of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005**

Chapter VII of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 is deleted.

*Article 51***Amendment of Directive 2008/90/EC**

In Article 19 of Directive 2008/90/EC, paragraph 1 is replaced by the following:

- ‘1. The Commission shall be assisted by the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed established by Article 58(1) of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council (\*). That Committee shall be a committee within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council (\*\*).

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(\*) Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety (OJ L 31, 1.2.2002, p. 1).

(\*\*) Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by the Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers (OJ L 55, 28.2.2011, p. 13).<sup>7</sup>.

*Article 52***Amendment of Directive 2009/128/EC**

Article 22 of Directive 2009/128/EC is deleted.

*Article 53***Amendment of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009**

Article 76 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 is deleted.

**▼B**

*Article 54*

**Entry into force and application**

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

It shall apply from 30 June 2014.

However, point (d) of Article 18(1) and point (2) of Article 47 shall apply from 1 January 2017.

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

*ANNEX I***Animal diseases referred to in Article 7**

- Rinderpest cattle plague
- Sheep and goat plague
- Swine vesicular disease
- Bluetongue
- Teschen disease
- Sheep pox or goat pox
- Rift Valley fever
- Lumpy skin disease
- African horse sickness
- Vesicular stomatitis
- Venezuelan equine viral encephalomyelitis
- Haemorrhagic disease of deer
- Classical swine fever
- African swine fever
- Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia
- Avian influenza
- Newcastle disease
- Foot-and-mouth disease
- Epizootic haematopoietic necrosis in fish (EHN)
- Epizootic ulcerative syndrome in fish (EUS)
- Infection with *Bonamia exitiosa*
- Infection with *Perkinsus marinus*
- Infection with *Microcytos mackini*
- Taura syndrome in crustaceans
- Yellowhead disease in crustaceans

**▼B***ANNEX II***Animal diseases and zoonoses referred to in Article 10**

- Bovine tuberculosis
- Bovine brucellosis
- Ovine and caprine brucellosis (*B. melitensis*)
- Bluetongue in endemic or high risk areas
- African swine fever
- Swine vesicular disease
- Classical swine fever
- Anthrax
- Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia
- Avian influenza
- Rabies
- Echinococcosis
- Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE)
- Campylobacteriosis
- Listeriosis
- Salmonellosis (zoonotic salmonella)
- Trichinellosis
- Verotoxigenic *E. coli*
- Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS)
- Infectious haematopoietic necrosis (IHN)
- Koi herpes virus disease (KHV)
- Infectious salmon anaemia (ISA)
- Infection with *Marteilia refringens*
- Infection with *Bonamia ostreae*
- White spot disease in crustaceans

**▼M3**

- Sheep and goat plague
- Sheep pox
- Goat pox
- Lumpy skin disease

*ANNEX III***Priorities for the Commission work programmes referred to in Section 2 of Chapter I of Title II, and in Section 2 and Section 3 of Chapter II of Title II**

Priorities for Union financial support, as regards the orientation of national programmes for the eradication, control and surveillance of animal diseases and zoonoses:

- diseases with impact on human health;
- diseases with impact on animal health, taking into consideration their potential spread and the morbidity and mortality rates in animal population;
- diseases and zoonoses which risk being introduced and/or re-introduced into the Union territory from third countries;
- diseases which have the potential to generate a crisis situation with serious economic consequences;
- diseases with impact on trade with third countries and intra-EU trade.

Priorities for Union financial support, as regards the orientation of national programmes for pest surveys for the protection of the Union territory:

- pests listed in Section I of Part A of Annex I and Section I of Part A of Annex II to Directive 2000/29/EC as not known to occur in the Union territory;
- pests subject to Union measures adopted pursuant to Article 16(3) of Directive 2000/29/EC;
- pests which are not listed in Directive 2000/29/EC and represent an imminent danger to the Union territory;
- pests which have the potential to generate a crisis situation with serious economic and environmental consequences;
- pests with impact on trade with third countries and intra-EU trade.

Priorities for Union financial support, as regards the orientation of national programmes for outermost regions:

- measures against pests associated with the imports into and the climate in those regions;
- methods for combating those pests;
- measures against pests listed pursuant to the rules on pests of plants in force in those regions.



#### STATEMENT BY THE COMMISSION

##### **on the procedures for the approval of veterinary and phytosanitary programmes**

In order to better inform the Member States, the Commission will arrange an annual meeting of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed which shall focus on the outcome of the evaluation procedure of programmes. That meeting will take place no later than 30 November of the year preceding the implementation of the programmes.

In connection with that meeting, the Commission will present the list of the programmes technically approved and proposed for co-financing. Both financial and technical details will be discussed with the national delegations, and their comments will be considered.

In addition, before taking its final decision thereon, the Commission will, during a meeting of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed in January, communicate to the Member States the final list of programmes selected for co-financing and the final amount allocated to each programme.

Preparatory work for the design of the work programme for the implementation of the measures referred to in Articles 9, 19 and 25 will be carried out with experts of Member States in early February of each year in order to give Member States the relevant information to establish the eradication and surveillance programmes.