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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2026/766

of 8 April 2026

amending and correcting Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620 as regards disease-free status from infestation with *Echinococcus multilocularis* and from infection with Bluetongue virus respectively, and repealing Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/878

(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 36(4) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Regulation (EU) 2016/429 lays down rules for the prevention and control of animal diseases that are transmissible to animals or to humans. It applies from 20 April 2021, and it lays down transitional measures to cover the Union rules repealed and replaced by it. In that respect, Article 270(2) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 repeals, inter alia, Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council ([2]), which lays down animal health requirements applicable to the non-commercial movement of pet animals, and Article 277 of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 provides that Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 is to continue to apply until 21 April 2026 in respect of non–commercial movements of pet animals, in place of Part VI of Regulation (EU) 2016/429.

(2) Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/772 ([3]) and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/878 ([4]) were adopted on the basis of Regulation (EU) No 576/2013. Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/772 lays down rules for the application of preventive health measures for the control of *Echinococcus multilocularis* infestation in dogs intended for non-commercial movements into the territory or parts of the territory of certain Member States, including rules for the categorisation of Member States, in order to prevent infestation with *Echinococcus multilocularis* from spreading to parts of the Union that are officially recognised as free of that disease. Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/878 lists Member States, or parts of the territory of Member States, complying with the rules for categorisation laid down in Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/772, concerning the application of preventive health measures for the control of *Echinococcus multilocularis* infestation in dogs.

(3) Regulation (EU) 2016/429 lays down disease-specific rules for the prevention and control of the listed diseases, defined in Article 4, point (18), thereof, and referred to in Article 5(1) thereof, and it specifies how those rules are to be applied to different categories of listed diseases. Regulation (EU) 2016/429 also provides for the approval or withdrawal by the Commission of the disease-free status of Member States or zones or compartments thereof,

([1]) OJ L 84, 31.3.2016, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/429/oj.

([2]) Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 June 2013 on the non-commercial movement of pet animals and repealing Regulation (EC) No 998/2003 (OJ L 178, 28.6.2013, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/576/oj).

([3]) Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/772 of 21 November 2017 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to preventive health measures for the control of *Echinococcus multilocularis* infection in dogs, and repealing Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1152/2011 (OJ L 130, 28.5.2018, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2018/772/oj).

([4]) Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/878 of 18 June 2018 adopting the list of Member States, or parts of the territory of Member States, that comply with the rules for categorisation laid down in Article 2(2) and (3) of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/772 concerning the application of preventive health measures for the control of *Echinococcus multilocularis* infection in dogs (OJ L 155, 19.6.2018, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2018/878/oj).

regarding certain listed diseases referred to in Article 9(1), points (a), (b) and (c), thereof. In addition, Regulation (EU) 2016/429 provides for Member States to establish compulsory eradication programmes for the listed diseases referred to in Article 9(1), point (b), thereof, and for optional eradication programmes for the listed diseases referred to in Article 9(1), point (c), thereof, and for the approval of such programmes by the Commission.

(4) Infestation with *Echinococcus multilocularis* is a listed disease, and in accordance with Article 9(1), point (c), of Regulation (EU) 2016/429, it is a disease of relevance to some Member States, and for which animal health measures are needed to prevent it from spreading to parts of the Union that are officially disease-free for that disease.

(5) Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689 ([5]) supplements Regulation (EU) 2016/429, and lays down the criteria for granting, maintaining, suspending, and withdrawing the disease-free status of Member States or zones or compartments thereof, and the requirements for the approval of eradication programmes of Member States or zones or compartments thereof.

(6) Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689 has recently been amended by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2026/134 ([6]) to provide detailed rules on surveillance, including diagnostic methods, and on disease-specific requirements for the recognition of disease-free status for *Echinococcus multilocularis* and for the maintenance of such disease-free status.

(7) In addition, Article 84 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689, as amended by Delegated Regulation (EU) 2026/134, lays down measures for the maintenance of existing disease-free statuses with regard to listed animal diseases, including for infestation with *Echinococcus multilocularis* by reference to Member States and zones thereof with an approved disease-free status for that listed disease granted in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 576/2013. As certain Member States have been recognised officially free from infestation with *Echinococcus multilocularis* and have been listed accordingly in Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/878, it should also be ensured that the Member States and zones thereof with an approved disease-free status before the date of application of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689 are deemed to have an approved disease-free status in accordance with that Delegated Regulation.

(8) Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620 ([7]) lays down implementing rules for the listed diseases, referred to in Article 9(1), points (a), (b) and (c), of Regulation (EU) 2016/429, of animals, as regards the disease-free and non-vaccination status of certain Member States or zones or compartments thereof, and the approval of eradication programmes for those listed diseases. More particularly, it lists in the Annexes thereto, the Member States or zones or compartments thereof with approved disease-free status, and with existing approved compulsory or optional eradication programmes. Due to the recent amendments to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689 by Delegated Regulation (EU) 2026/134 as regards rules concerning infestation with *Echinococcus multilocularis*, it is appropriate to insert a new Article 19a in Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620 concerning infestation with *Echinococcus multilocularis*, and a new Annex XIX listing the Member States or zones thereof with disease-free status from infestation with *Echinococcus multilocularis* in accordance with the conditions laid down in Annex V to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689.

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

([6]) Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2026/134 of 20 January 2026 amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689 as regards rules for surveillance and disease-free status from infestation with *Echinococcus multilocularis* (OJ L, 2026/134, 27.3.2026, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2026/134/oj).

([7]) Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620 of 15 April 2021 laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the approval of the disease-free and non-vaccination status of certain Member States or zones or compartments thereof as regards certain listed diseases and the approval of eradication programmes for those listed diseases (OJ L 131, 16.4.2021, p. 78, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2021/620/oj).

(9) Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620 should, therefore, be amended accordingly.

(10) As the amendments made to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689 by Delegated Regulation (EU) 2026/134 apply from 22 April 2026, the amendments made to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620 by this Regulation concerning infestation with *Echinococcus multilocularis* should also apply from that date.

(11) In addition, as the lists set out in Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/878 are being replaced by the lists set out in new Annex XIX to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620, due to the amendments made by this Regulation, Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/878 should be repealed.

(12) Furthermore, Article 9(1) of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620 provides that the Member States or zones thereof with disease-free status from infection with bluetongue virus (serotypes 1-24) (infection with BTV) are listed in Part I of Annex VIII to that Implementing Regulation. Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2026/293 ([8]) amended the table set out in Part I of Annex VIII to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620, by listing several zones in Poland as zones without disease-free status with regard to infection with BTV. However, an error has now been detected as these zones still comply with the criteria to maintain the disease-free status with regard to infection with BTV. It is therefore necessary to correct accordingly the entry for Poland in Part I of Annex VIII. Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620 should, therefore, be corrected accordingly.

(13) 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

Amendments to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620

Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620 is amended as follows:

(1) the following Article 19a is inserted:

'*Article 19a*

Infestation with *Echinococcus multilocularis*

The Member States or zones thereof with disease-free status from infestation with *Echinococcus multilocularis* shall be listed in Annex XIX.';

(2) a new Annex XIX is added in accordance with Part A of the Annex to this Regulation.

Article 2

Corrections to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620

Part I of Annex VIII to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620 is corrected in accordance with Part B of the Annex to this Regulation.

Article 3

Repeal of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/878

Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/878 is repealed.

([8]) Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2026/293 of 9 February 2026 amending Annexes I to IV, VII, VIII, XI and XIII and correcting Annex VIII to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620 as regards the approval or withdrawal of the disease-free status of certain Member States, zones or compartments thereof as regards certain listed diseases and the approval of eradication programmes for certain listed diseases (OJ L, 2026/293, 10.2.2026, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2026/293/oj).

Article 4

Entry into force and application

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

Articles 1 and 3 shall apply from 22 April 2026.

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

Done at Brussels, 8 April 2026.

For the Commission
The President
Ursula VON DER LEYEN

ANNEX

PART A

Amendments to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620

The following Annex XIX is added to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620:

'*ANNEX XIX*

INFESTATION WITH *ECHINOCOCCUS MULTILOCULARIS*

PART I

Member States or zones thereof with disease-free status from infestation with *Echinococcus multilocularis* in accordance with the conditions laid down in Annex V, Part V, Section 2, point (1), of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689

Member State	Territory
Malta	Whole territory

PART II

Member States or zones thereof with disease-free status from infestation with *Echinococcus multilocularis*, in accordance with the conditions laid down in Annex V, Part V, Section 2, point (2), of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689

Member State (*)	Territory
Finland	Whole territory
Ireland	Whole territory
United Kingdom (Northern Ireland)	Northern Ireland

(*) 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 Windsor Framework (see 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 (OJ L 102, 17.4.2023, p. 87)) in conjunction with Annex 2 to that Framework, for the purposes of this Annex, references to Member States include the United Kingdom in respect of Northern Ireland.'

PART B

Corrections to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620

In Part I of Annex VIII to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620, the entry for Poland is replaced by the following:

'Poland	The whole territory of Poland except: województwo dolnośląskie; województwo kujawsko-pomorskie; województwo lubuskie; województwo łódzkie; województwo opolskie; województwo pomorskie; województwo śląskie; województwo warmińsko-mazurskie; województwo wielkopolskie; województwo zachodniopomorskie;

	w województwie małopolskim: powiat chrzanowski, powiat olkuski, powiat oświęcimski, w województwie mazowieckim: powiat ciechanowski, powiat gostyniński, powiat makowski, powiat mławski, powiat ostrołęcki, miasto na prawach powiatu Ostrołęka, powiat płocki, miasto na prawach powiatu Płock, powiat przasnyski, powiat pułtuski, powiat sierpecki, powiat żuromiński, w powiecie nowodworskim: gmina Nasielsk, w powiecie ostrowskim: gmina Andrzejewo, gmina Ostrów Mazowiecka, miasto Ostrów Mazowiecka, gmina Stary Lubotyń, gmina Wąsewo, w powiecie płońskim: gmina Baboszewo, gmina Czerwińsk nad Wisłą, gmina Dzierzążnia, gmina Joniec, gmina Naruszewo, gmina Nowe Miasto, gmina Płońsk, miasto Płońsk, gmina Raciąż, miasto Raciąż, gmina Sochocin, w powiecie sochaczewskim: gmina Brochów, gmina Iłów, gmina Młodzieszyn, gmina Nowa Sucha, gmina Rybno, gmina Sochaczew, miasto Sochaczew, w powiecie wyszkowskim: gmina Długosiodło, gmina Rząśnik, gmina Somianka; w województwie podlaskim: powiat augustowski, powiat białostocki, miasto na prawach powiatu Białystok, powiat grajewski, powiat kolneński, powiat łomżyński, miasto na prawach powiatu Łomża, powiat moniecki, powiat sejneński, powiat sokólski, powiat suwalski, miasto na prawach powiatu Suwałki, powiat zambrowski, w powiecie wysokomazowieckim: gmina Czyżew, gmina Kobylin-Borzymy, gmina Kulesze Kościelne, gmina Nowe Piekuty, gmina Sokoły, gmina Szepietowo, gmina Wysokie Mazowieckie, miasto Wysokie Mazowieckie.’