



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Crisis Preparedness in Food, Animals and Plants
The Director

Brussels
SANTE.G.2/PRM/rk(2023)5434601

Dear Dr Almansa De Lara,

Indeed, I am aware of the publication of the referred regional Resolution in the autonomous region of Castilla y León in Spain. My services have made a preliminary study and we are deeply concerned as regards the possible effect of those rules if they are applied.

The Resolution as published is not compatible with a number of EU provisions on infection with Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex (MTBC). Those regional rules authorise movements of animals that are not allowed in EU legislation, namely in Delegated Regulations (EC) 2020/688 ⁽¹⁾ and 2020/689 ⁽²⁾. More specifically that regional Resolution derogates from certain compulsory premovement tests and/or enables movements from bovine establishments in which the infection with MTBC health status is suspended or withdrawn due to positive or doubtful test results or even possibly when outbreaks are confirmed. This kind of movement is extremely dangerous as it might facilitate further disease spread.

Furthermore, the mentioned regional Resolution appears to provide for a lax and non-compliant mechanism for restoring the status free from infection with MTBC to bovine establishments (and regions) without applying the testing regime prescribed in EU legislation.

The mentioned non-compliances with the relevant EU rules for granting, maintaining or restoring the status free from infection with MTBC may lead to a risk of infection with MTBC spread to other regions of Spain and the other Member State of the EU that will jeopardise their free status.

⁽¹⁾ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688 of 17 December 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council, as regards animal health requirements for movements within the Union of terrestrial animals and hatching eggs.

⁽²⁾ 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.

Dr Valentín Almansa de Lara
Director General de Sanidad de la Producción Agraria
Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación
Madrid
E-mail: valmansa@mapa.es

Therefore, I urge to take the appropriate measures without any delay in order to protect public and animal health in the EU. Please keep me informed on any step taken so that we are reassured that effective measures are in place in Spain to prevent any risk of deterioration of the infection with MTBC status in the Union.

Please let me know any kind of support that you may need from my services.

Yours faithfully,

[e-signed]
Bernard Van Goethem