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From: Secretary-General of the European Commission, signed by Ms Martine DEPREZ, Director

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To: Ms Thérèse BLANCHET, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union

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Subject: ANNEX to the COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) .../... amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689 as regards rules for surveillance and disease-free status from infestation with *Echinococcus multilocularis*

Delegations will find attached document C(2026) 23 annex.

Encl.: C(2026) 23 annex



Brussels, 20.1.2026

C(2026) 23 final

ANNEX

ANNEX

to the

COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) .../...

amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689 as regards rules for surveillance and disease-free status from infestation with *Echinococcus multilocularis*

ANNEX

Annexes III and V are amended as follows:

1. in Annex III, the following Section 7 is added:

‘Section 7

Infestation with *Echinococcus multilocularis*

1. Sedimentation and counting technique (SCT), or a technique of equivalent sensitivity and specificity, for the detection of the *Echinococcus multilocularis* parasite on intestinal contents.
 2. Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) methods, or a technique of equivalent sensitivity and specificity, for the detection of species-specific deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) from tissue or eggs of the *Echinococcus multilocularis* parasite on intestinal contents or faeces.’;
2. in Annex V, the following Part V is added:

‘PART V

INFESTATION WITH *ECHINOCOCCUS MULTILOCULARIS*

Section 1

Surveillance to demonstrate the absence of infestation with *Echinococcus multilocularis* in the wild definitive host population

The surveillance to demonstrate the absence of infestation with *Echinococcus multilocularis* in the wild definitive host population must:

1. describe the target wild definitive host Canidae population and include the density, age structure, geographical and gender distribution, taking into account the relative risks of infestation with the *Echinococcus multilocularis* in different species and subpopulations of the target wild definitive host Canidae population;
2. consist in the ongoing collection, during each 12-month surveillance period, of samples from wild definitive host Canidae tested negative with one of the methods referred to in Section 7 of Annex III;
3. be designed to allow, on an appropriate risk-based or representative sample of wild definitive host Canidae, the detection of the *Echinococcus multilocularis* parasite, if present in any epidemiologically relevant geographical unit in the Member State or zone thereof in the wild definitive host population at a prevalence of not more than 1% at a confidence level of at least 95%.

Section 2

Granting of the status to a Member State or zone as free from infestation with *Echinococcus multilocularis*

The status free from infestation with *Echinococcus multilocularis* may only be granted to a Member State or a zone thereof if:

1. for the past three consecutive 12-month periods, the Member State has implemented an annual surveillance, which has demonstrated that, in accordance with Article 67,

the infestation with *Echinococcus multilocularis* has not been established because of the absence of red foxes, as wild definitive host animals, in its entire territory;

2. in the presence of wild definitive host Canidae populations and provided that there has been no confirmed case of infestation with *Echinococcus multilocularis* in those animals, one of the following requirements is fulfilled:
 - (a) there has been no confirmed case of infestation with *Echinococcus multilocularis* in wild definitive host Canidae during the past 25 years in accordance with Article 70(1), point (a) and for the past 10 years, the requirements set out in Article 70(2), points (b) and (d) have been met;
 - (b) for the past three consecutive 12-month periods, an annual surveillance programme, which complies with the requirements set out in Section 1, has demonstrated the absence of infestation with *Echinococcus multilocularis* in wild definitive host Canidae.

Section 3

Maintenance of the status of a Member State or zone free from infestation with *Echinococcus multilocularis*

The status free from infestation with *Echinococcus multilocularis* granted to a Member State or a zone thereof may only be maintained if:

1. for a Member State or zone thereof which has been granted a status free from infestation with *Echinococcus multilocularis* in accordance with point 1 of Section 2, the competent authority:
 - (a) maintains an annual surveillance to detect the presence of wild red foxes on its territory;
 - (b) immediately notifies the Commission and the other Member States of the detection of the presence of wild red foxes;
2. for a Member State or zone thereof which has been granted a status free from infestation with *Echinococcus multilocularis* in accordance with point 2 of Section 2, the competent authority maintains an annual surveillance that:
 - (a) demonstrates the absence of infestation with *Echinococcus multilocularis* in wild definitive host Canidae in accordance with the requirements set out in Section 1;
 - (b) enables the early detection of infestation with *Echinococcus multilocularis* in wild definitive host Canidae.’.