COMMISSION DECISION

of 30 June 1999

amending Commission Decisions 1999/240/EC and 1999/241/EC on certain protection measures with regard to registered horses coming from Singapore and Malaysia (Peninsula) and *equidae* coming from Australia

(notified under document number C(1999) 1802)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(1999/463/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Directive 91/496/EEC of 15 July 1991 laying down the principles governing the organisation of veterinary checks on animals entering the Community from third countries and amending Directives 89/662/EEC, 90/425/EEC and 90/675/EEC [1], as last amended by Directive 96/43/EC [2], and in particular Article 18(7) thereof,

(1) Whereas by Decision 1999/240/EC [3] the Commission has adopted certain protection measures with regard to registered horses coming from Singapore and Malaysia (Peninsula) due to the occurrence of Hendra-like disease (paramyxovirus), a zoonotic disease that had caused fatalities in humans;

(2) Whereas this infection is a new disease named Nipah disease, which, as known now, is transmitted to humans by pigs;

(3) Whereas according to official information pig-farming ceased in Singapore in 1990 and imports from Malaysia of live pigs, *equidae* and other mammalian animals susceptible to this disease are prohibited; whereas moreover Singapore officially notified the completion with negative results of a survey for this disease in horses and in persons handling horses;

(4) Whereas by Decision 1999/241/EC [4] the Commission has adopted certain protection measures with regard to *equidae* coming from Australia due to the occurrence of Hendra disease (equine morbillivirus) in a horse in Queensland in January 1999; whereas this Decision applies until 31 May 1999;

(5) Whereas the presence of this disease in certain wildlife species in certain parts of Australia is liable to constitute a serious danger for Community *equidae*; whereas however a serological test has been developed to detect in individual horses antibody against the Hendra disease virus;

(6) Whereas in the light of the evolution of the diseases in Singapore and Australia, and additionally the developments in laboratory diagnosis in Australia, it appears appropriate to modify Decisions 1999/240/EC and 1999/241/EC with regard to protection measures at Community level in relation to importation of registered horses coming from Singapore and *equidae* coming from Australia;

(7) Whereas this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Veterinary Committee,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Commission Decision 1999/240/EC is amended as follows.

1. In the title of the Decision the words 'and Singapore' are deleted.

2. In Article 1 the words 'and Singapore' are deleted.

3. In Article 2 the words 'and Singapore' are deleted.

Article 2

Commission Decision 1999/241/EC is amended as follows.

1. In Article 1(2):
   — the first and second indents are deleted,
   — two new indents are inserted as follows:

   '— during the past 60 days the *equidae* has not been resident on holdings on which cases of Hendra disease have been confirmed by the competent authorities during the past 60 days,

   — the *equidae* was subjected to an approved test, either serum neutralisation or ELISA, for the detection of antibodies for Hendra disease virus, carried out in a laboratory designated by the competent authorities with negative results on a sample of blood taken within 14 days of dispatch to the European Community on (insert date of blood sampling).'

[1] OJ L 268, 24.9.1991, p. 56.
[2] OJ L 162, 1.7.1996, p. 1.
[3] OJ L 89, 1.4.1999, p. 72.
[4] OJ L 89, 1.4.1999, p. 74.

2. In Article 3 the date '31 May 1999' is replaced by '31 December 1999'.

Article 3

Member States shall amend the measures they apply with regard to Singapore and Australia to bring them into line with this Decision.

They shall inform the Commission thereof.

Article 4

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 30 June 1999.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission