II

(Acts whose publication is not obligatory)

COMMISSION

COMMISSION DECISION

of 5 March 2002

amending Decision 2001/783/EC as regards the protection and surveillance zones in relation to bluetongue in Italy

(notified under document number C(2002) 847)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2002/189/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Directive 2000/75/EC of 20 November 2000 laying down specific provisions for the control and eradication of bluetongue [1], and in particular Article 8(3) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Following the evolution of the bluetongue situation in four Member States in 2001, Commission Decision 2001/783/EC of 9 November 2001 on protection and surveillance zones in relation to bluetongue and on rules applicable to movements of animals in and from those zones [2], as last amended by Decision 2002/35/EC [3], was adopted pursuant to Directive 2000/75/EC.

(2) It is clear from the results of the epidemiological survey implemented by the Italian authorities that no virus circulation has taken place in Latina province for more than 100 days and as a consequence this province can be considered as free of the disease.

(3) As a result, Latina province may be deleted from the list of the provinces included in the protection and surveillance zone established in Annex I C to Decision 2001/783/EC.

(4) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Veterinary Committee,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

In Annex I C to Decision 2001/783/EC the Latina province is deleted.

Article 2

Member States shall amend the measures they apply to trade so as to bring them into compliance with this Decision.

They shall immediately inform the Commission thereof.

Article 3

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 5 March 2002.

For the Commission

David BYRNE

Member of the Commission

[1] OJ L 327, 22.12.2000, p. 74.
[2] OJ L 293, 10.11.2001, p. 42.
[3] OJ L 15, 17.1.2002, p. 31.