COMMISSION DECISION

of 9 July 2002

on restrictive measures related to vaccination against avian influenza in Italy

(notified under document number C(2002) 2546)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2002/552/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Directive 90/425/EEC of 26 June 1990 concerning veterinary and zootechnical checks applicable in intra-Community trade in certain live animals and products with a view to the completion of the internal market ([1]), as last amended by Council Directive 92/118/EEC ([2]), and, in particular, Article 10(4) thereof,

Having regard to Council Directive 89/662/EEC of 11 December 1989 concerning veterinary checks in intra-Community trade with a view to the completion of the internal market ([3]), as last amended by Council Directive 92/118/EEC, and in particular, Article 9(4) thereof,

Having regard to Council Directive 92/40/EEC of 19 May 1992 introducing Community measures for the control of avian influenza ([4]), and in particular Article 16 thereof,

Whereas:

(1) By means of Commission Decision 2000/721/EC of 7 November 2000 on introducing vaccination to supplement the measures to control avian influenza in Italy and on specific movement control measures ([5]), as last amended by Decision 2001/847/EC ([6]), the Commission approved the vaccination programme presented by Italy.

(2) The close monitoring performed in the poultry flocks has not shown any virus circulation since the last recorded case of low pathogenic avian influenza in March 2001.

(3) The Italian authorities have informed the Commission and the Member States that all vaccinations came to an end on 16 May 2002.

(4) In connection to the phasing out of the vaccination, the restrictive measures for live vaccinated poultry and hatching eggs should be modified, and be lifted for table eggs and poultrymeat originating from vaccinated poultry.

(5) However, the monitoring of vaccinated flocks should be continued including the use of the serological test (iIFA-Test), which had been approved by Commission Decision 2001/847/EC.

(6) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Veterinary Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

1. No live poultry that has been vaccinated against avian influenza or hatching eggs, day-old chicks and any other progeny derived from such poultry shall be dispatched from Italy.

2. Animal health certificates accompanying consignments of live birds and hatching eggs from Italy shall include the words: 'The animal health conditions of this consignment are in accordance with Decision 2002/552/EC'.

Article 2

In the area described in Annex I the monitoring of vaccinated poultry flocks shall be carried out as laid down in Annex II to this Decision. It shall be continued for six months after the date on which vaccination against avian influenza ended.

Article 3

Italy shall present a final report on the results of the vaccination campaign and the monitoring programme by 31 December 2002.

Article 4

This Decision shall apply from the seventh day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

([1]) OJ L 224, 18.8.1990, p. 29.
([2]) OJ L 62, 15.3.1993, p. 49.
([3]) OJ L 395, 30.12.1989, p. 13.
([4]) OJ L 167, 22.6.1992, p. 1.
([5]) OJ L 291, 18.11.2000, p. 33.
([6]) OJ L 315, 1.12.2001, p. 61.

Article 5

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 9 July 2002.

For the Commission
David BYRNE
Member of the Commission

ANNEX I

Area where vaccination monitoring shall be carried out

In the region of Veneto in the province of Verona the following municipalities:

Roverchiara	
Angiari	
Isola Rizza	
S. Pietro di Morubio	
Oppeano	
Palù	
Ronco all'Adige	
Albaredo d'Adige	
Bonavigo	
Cerea	
Bovolone	
Concamarise	
Salizzole	
Isola della Scala	
Nogara	
S. Giovanni Lupatoto	area to the south of the A4 motorway
Verona	area to the south of the A4 motorway and to the east of the territory of the municipality of S. Giovanni Lupatoto
	area to the south of the A4 motorway and to the ovest of the territory of the municipality of S. Giovanni Lupatoto
S. Martino Buon Albergo	area to the south of the A4 motorway
Lavagno	area to the south of the A4 motorway
Colognola ai Colli	area to the south of the A4 motorway
San Bonifacio	area to the south of the A4 motorway
Caldiero	
Buttapietra	
Zevio	
Belfiore	
Arcole	
Zimella	
Veronella	
Cologna Veneta	
Pressana	
Roveredo di Guà	
Minerbe	
Gazzo Veronese	
Sanguinetto	
Casaleone	
Legnago	
Boschi Sant' Anna	
Erbè	
Sorgà	
Castel d'Azzano	
Vigasio	
Trevenzuolo	

ANNEX II

Monitoring plan for low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) in the vaccination area in the Veneto Region

In all holdings with vaccinated poultry the official veterinarian has to take 10 samples from non-vaccinated sentinel birds for serological investigation at least every 45 days.

The samples have to be subjected to the haemagglutination-inhibition test (HI) for H 7 antibodies. Indirect immunofluorescence assay (iIFA-test) may complement the testing.

All samples have to be submitted to the National Laboratory for Avian Influenza for examination.

In the case of seropositive findings, at least 10 sentinel birds have to be humanely sacrificed and a virological examination in accordance with Annex III of Council Directive 92/40/EEC has to be carried out.