COMMISSION DECISION

of 1 August 2003

amending Decision 93/402/EEC as regards imports of fresh meat from Argentina

(notified under document number C(2003) 2787)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2003/576/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Directive 72/462/EEC of 12 December 1972, on health and veterinary inspection problems upon importation of bovine, ovine and caprine animals and swine, fresh meat or meat products from third countries [1], as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 807/2003 [2], and in particular Articles 14(3) thereof.

Having regard Council Directive 2002/99/EC of 16 December 2002 laying down the animal health rules governing the production, processing, distribution and introduction of products of animal origin for human consumption [3] and in particular Article 8(4).

Whereas:

(1) Commission Decision 93/402/EEC of 10 June 1993 concerning animal health conditions and veterinary certification for imports of fresh meat from South American countries [4], as last amended by Decision 2003/137/EC [5], applies to Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Paraguay and Uruguay.

(2) The Commission has been informed by the Paraguayan veterinary authorities of an outbreak of foot and mouth disease close to the border with Argentina. Paraguay is not currently authorised to export fresh meat into the European Community.

(3) The surveillance area of the outbreak affects part of the territory of Argentina.

(4) The Argentinean veterinary authorities immediately put in place measures to avoid the spread of the disease into the Argentinean territory, in particular providing for vaccination of and movement controls on the animals in the provinces along the border area. The Argentinean authorities immediately informed the Commission Services about these measures.

(5) In view of the potential risk of disease in this border area, and taking account of the immediate action taken by the competent veterinary authorities of Argentina, it is sufficient to suspend the importation of de-boned and matured bovine meat coming only from the departments of Ramon Lista and Rivadavia and for a limited period of time.

(6) Decision 93/402/EEC should therefore be amended accordingly.

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

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Annex I to Decision 93/402/EEC is replaced by the text in the Annex to this Decision.

Article 2

The Member States shall amend the measures they apply to imports so as to bring them into compliance with this Decision and they shall give immediate appropriate publicity to the measures adopted. They shall immediately inform the Commission thereof.

Article 3

This Decision shall apply until 15 September 2003.

Article 4

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 1 August 2003.

For the Commission

David BYRNE

Member of the Commission

[1] OJ L 302, 31.12.1972, p. 28.
[2] OJ L 122, 16.5.2003, p. 36.
[3] OJ L 18, 23.1.2002, p. 11.
[4] OJ L 179, 22.7.1993, p. 11.
[5] OJ L 53, 28.2.2003, p. 54.

ANNEX

'ANNEX I

Description of territories of South America established for animal health certification purposes

Country	Territory		Description of territory
	Code	Version	
Argentina	AR	1/2001	Whole country
	AR-1	4/2002	The Provinces of Buenos Aires, Catamarca, Chaco, Córdoba, Corrientes, Entre Ríos, Formosa (except the territory of Ramón Lista) ([1]), Jujuy, La Pampa, La Rioja, Mendoza, Misiones, Neuquén, Río Negro, Salta (except the territory of Rivadavia) ([1]), San Juan, San Luis, Santa Fe, Santiago del Estero, and Tucumán.
	AR-3	1/2002	Chubut, Santa Cruz and Tierra del Fuego
Brazil	BR	1/1993	Whole country
	BR-1	2/2001	The States of: Rio Grande do Sul; Parana, Minas Gerais (except regional delegations of Oliveira, Passos, São Gonçalo de Sapucai, Setelagoas and Bambuí), São Paulo, Espirito Santo, Mato Grosso do Sul (except for the municipalities of Sete Quedas, Sonora, Aquidauana, Bodoquena, Bonito, Caracol, Coxim, Jardim, Ladario, Miranda, Pedro Gomes, Porto Murtinho, Rio Negro, Rio Verde of Mato Grosso and Corumba), Santa Catarina Goias and the regional units of Cuiaba (except for the municipalities of San Antonio de Leverger, Nossa Senhora do Livramento, Pocone and Barão de Melgaço), Caceres (except for the municipality of Caceres) Lucas do Rio Verde, Rondonopolis (except for the municipality of Itiquiora), Barra do Garças and Barra do Bugres in Mato Grosso
	BR-2	1/2002	Mato Grosso do Sul municipality of Sete Quedas
Chile	CL	1/1993	Whole country
Colombia	CO	1/1993	Whole country
	CO-1	1/1993	The zone included within the following borderlines: from the point where the Murri River flows into the Atrato River, downstream along the Atrato River to where it flows into the Atlantic Ocean, from this point to the Panamanian border following the Atlantic coastline to Cabo Tiburon; from this point to the Pacific Ocean following the Columbian-Panamanian border: from this point to the mouth of the Valle River along the Pacific Coast and from this point along a straight line to the point where the Murri River flows into the Atrato River.
	CO-2	1/1993	The municipalities of Arboletas, Necocli, San Pedro de Uraba, Turbo, Apartado, Chigorodo, Mutata, Dabeiba, Uramita, Murindo, Riosucio (right bank of the Atrato river) and Frontino.
	CO-3	1/1993	The zone included within the following borderlines: from the mouth of the Sinu River on the Atlantic Ocean, upstream along the Sinu River to its headwaters of Alto Paramillo, from this point to Puerto Rey on the Atlantic Ocean, following the borderline between the Department of Antiquia and Cordoba, and from this point to the mouth of the Sinu River along the Atlantic Coast.
Paraguay	PY	1/1993	Whole country
	PY-1	1/2002	Chaco central and San Pedro areas
Uruguay	UY	1/2001	Whole country

([1]) This exception applies only until 15 September 2003.'