COMMISSION

COMMISSION DECISION

of 27 April 2007

on a financial contribution from the Community towards emergency measures to combat avian influenza in France in 2006

(notified under document number C(2007) 1821)

(Only the French text is authentic)

(2007/312/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Decision 90/424/EEC of 26 June 1990 on expenditure in the veterinary field [1], and in particular Article 3(3) and 3a(1) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Decision 90/424/EEC lays down the procedures governing the Community's financial contribution towards specific veterinary measures, including emergency measures. Decision 90/424/EEC, as amended by Decision 2006/53/EC [2], provides for a Community financial contribution to Member States to cover certain costs involved in taking measures to eradicate avian influenza.

(2) Outbreaks of avian influenza occurred in France in 2006. The emergence of that disease represents a serious risk to the Community's livestock population. Under Article 3a(2) of Decision 90/424/EEC, France took measures to combat those outbreaks.

(3) The payment of a Community financial contribution must be made subject to the condition that the planned measures were actually implemented and that the competent authorities provided all the necessary information to the Commission within certain deadlines.

(4) Commission Regulation (EC) No 349/2005 of 28 February 2005 laying down rules on the Community financing of emergency measures and of the campaign to combat certain animal diseases under Council Decision 90/424/EEC [3], following the amendment of Decision 90/424/EEC by Decision 2006/53/EC, no longer covers avian influenza. It is therefore necessary to expressly provide in the present Decision that the granting of a financial contribution to France is subject to compliance with certain rules laid down in Regulation (EC) No 349/2005.

(5) Article 3a(3) of Decision 90/424/EEC provides that the Community financial contribution is to be 50 % of the eligible costs incurred by the Member State.

(6) France has fully complied with its technical and administrative obligations as set out in Articles 3(3) and 3a(2) of Decision 90/424/EEC. France has forwarded to the Commission information on the costs incurred in the framework of this outbreak on 24 March 2006.

(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

Financial contribution from the Community

1. A financial contribution from the Community may be granted to France towards the costs incurred by that Member State in taking the measures referred to in Article 3a(2) of Decision 90/424/EEC to combat avian influenza in 2006.

The financial contribution shall be 50 % of the costs incurred that are eligible for Community funding.

[1] OJ L 224, 18.8.1990, p. 19. Decision as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1791/2006 (OJ L 363, 20.12.2006, p. 1).

[2] OJ L 29, 2.2.2006, p. 37.

[3] OJ L 55, 1.3.2005, p. 12.

2. For the purposes of this Decision, Articles 2 to 5 and Articles 7 and 8 and Article 9(2), (3) and (4) and Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 349/2005 shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

Article 2

Addressee

This Decision is addressed to the Republic of France.

Done at Brussels, 27 April 2007.

For the Commission
Markos KYPRIANOU
Member of the Commission