

## COMMISSION DECISION

of 31 March 1999

on certain protection measures with regard to equidae coming from Australia

*(notified under document number C(1999) 786)*

(Text with EEA relevance)

(1999/241/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 <sup>(1)</sup>, as last amended by Directive 96/43/EC <sup>(2)</sup>, and in particular Article 18(1) thereof,

- (1) Whereas a fatal case of Hendra disease (*Equine morbillivirus*) has been declared in a horse in Queensland, Australia; whereas the infection may be transmitted to human and fatality in human has been reported;
- (2) Whereas the presence of this disease in certain parts of Australia is liable to constitute a serious danger for Community equidae;
- (3) Whereas it is necessary to adopt rapidly protection measures at Community level with regard to imports of equidae from Australia;
- (4) Whereas pending further information from the Australian authorities, notably the geographical distribution of the disease, supplementary conditions should be applied for the temporary admission of registered horses, the re-entry after temporary export of registered horses, and the importation of equidae from Australia,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

*Article 1*

1. A supplementary certificate signed by the Australian central competent veterinary authorities shall be required for the temporary admission of registered horses, the re-

admission after temporary export of registered horses, and the import of equidae, coming from Australia.

2. The certificate provided for in paragraph 1 must contain the following guarantees:

- the equidae have not been resident in the State of Queensland (Australia) during the last 30 days,
- the equidae have not been in contact with other equidae which have been resident in the State of Queensland (Australia) during the last 30 days,
- the equidae have not been in direct contact with equidae which have been resident on infected holdings during the last 60 days.

*Article 2*

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

They shall inform the Commission thereof.

*Article 3*

This Decision shall apply until 31 May 1999.

*Article 4*

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 31 March 1999.

*For the Commission*

Franz FISCHLER

*Member of the Commission*

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 268, 24.9.1991, p. 56.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ L 162, 1.7.1996, p. 1.