Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687¹ supplementing the Animal Health Law as regards rules for preventing and controlling certain animal diseases, is based on the latest animal health scientific knowledge and was discussed extensively with Member States experts. It was adopted with the support of the European Parliament and the Council. It aims at defining science-based and harmonised rules for quickly eradicating highly transmissible and dangerous animal diseases like Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). It lays down in particular rules and measures that should be implemented in the affected establishments and around (in the restricted zone) to avoid the spread of the disease.

Once all the necessary measures have been implemented (including depopulation, cleaning and disinfection of the affected establishment, movement restrictions and strict surveillance around the farm showing the absence of virus), all restriction measures can be lifted after at least 30 days following the effective cleaning and disinfection.

Possibilities for the Member States competent authorities to derogate from certain measures were considered during the adoption process of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 provided the risk of disease spreading is negligible. Derogating from the prohibition to perform any gathering (including pigeons’ races) of animals of listed species (all birds are considered to pose a considerable risk for the spread of HPAI) in restricted zones around HPAI affected establishments was not accepted, as the risk of disease spreading is not insignificant.