

Animal Husbandry Act

Promulgated, SG No. 65/8.08.2000, effective 9.09.2000, amended and supplemented, SG No. 18/5.03.2004, effective 6.04.2004, amended, SG No. 87/1.11.2005, effective 1.05.2006, SG No. 105/29.12.2005, effective 1.01.2006, SG No. 30/11.04.2006, effective 12.07.2006, amended and supplemented, SG No. 34/25.04.2006, effective 1.01.2008 (*) (**), amended, SG No. 96/28.11.2006, effective 1.01.2007, amended and supplemented, SG No. 51/26.06.2007, effective 26.06.2007, amended, SG No. 36/4.04.2008, SG No. 43/29.04.2008, amended and supplemented, SG No. 26/6.04.2010, amended, SG No. 8/25.01.2011, effective 25.01.2011, amended and supplemented, SG No. 59/3.08.2012, amended, SG No. 66/26.07.2013, effective 26.07.2013, SG No. 109/20.12.2013, SG No. 98/28.11.2014, effective 28.11.2014, SG No. 61/11.08.2015, SG No. 58/18.07.2017, effective 18.07.2017, amended and supplemented, SG No. 17/23.02.2018, effective 23.02.2018

(*) effective 1.07.2007 - amended, SG No. 80/3.10.2006, effective 3.10.2006

(**) effective 1.01.2008 - amended, SG No. 53/30.06.2007, effective 30.06.2007

Text in Bulgarian: Закон за животновъдството

CHAPTER ONE GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. This Act shall regulate:

1. the organisation and management of animal husbandry;
2. (amended, SG No. 26/2010) breeding activities in animal husbandry;
3. (amended, SG No. 18/2004, supplemented, SG No. 51/2007, amended, SG No. 26/2010) the production of farm animals, semen, ova, and embryos;
4. (new, SG No. 18/2004, amended, SG No. 26/2010) the marketing of live animals, semen, ova, and embryos;
5. (renumbered from Item 4, SG No. 18/2004, amended and supplemented, SG No. 51/2007) the statute, activity and support for the animal husbandry organisations;
6. (renumbered from Item 5, amended, SG No. 18/2004) the rights and obligations of natural and legal persons connected with the activities of Items 2, 3 and 4.

Article 2. This Act shall aim at creating conditions and prerequisites for:

1. (amended, SG No. 26/2010) sustainable development of animal husbandry;
2. (new, SG No. 26/2010) management of genetic resources and their use for effective production of animal products;
3. (amended, SG No. 18/2004, renumbered from Item 2, SG No. 26/2010) creating, conserving and improving populations of farm animals, adapted to the different agro-ecological regions of the country;

4. (amended, SG No. 18/2004, renumbered from Item 3, SG No. 26/2010) harmonic development of animal husbandry aiming at protection of the environment and human and animal health;

5. (new, SG No. 18/2004, renumbered from Item 4, amended, SG No. 26/2010) effective quality management and control in the production and marketing of live animals, semen, ova, and embryos.

CHAPTER TWO

ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Article 3. (1) (Amended, SG No. 18/2004, SG No. 26/2010, SG No. 58/2017, effective 18.07.2017) The Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry shall implement the government policy in the field of animal husbandry.

(2) (New, SG No. 18/2004, amended, SG No. 51/2007, SG No. 26/2010, SG No. 58/2017, effective 18.07.2017) In exercising his/her powers, the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry shall be assisted by:

1. (amended, SG No. 58/2017, effective 18.07.2017) a specialized directorate under the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry;

2. The Executive Agency for Selection and Reproduction in Animal Husbandry;

3. regional Agriculture Directorates;

4. The Council on Animal Husbandry as a consultative body;

5. Animal husbandry organisations.

(3) (Renumbered from Paragraph 2, amended, SG No. 18/2004, repealed, SG No. 26/2010).

Article 3a. (New, SG No. 26/2010) (1) (Amended, SG No. 58/2017, effective 18.07.2017) The specialized directorate under the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry shall organise the activities and create the conditions for implementing the government policy in the field of animal husbandry by designing strategies and programmes on animal husbandry development and preparation of regulatory documents in the field of animal husbandry.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 58/2017, effective 18.07.2017) The specialized directorate's structure and operation shall be defined in the Structural Rules of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry.

Article 3b. (New, SG No. 26/2010) (1) The Executive Agency for Selection and Reproduction in Animal Husbandry shall:

1. (amended, SG No. 58/2017, effective 18.07.2017) assist the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry in implementing the government policy in the field of breeding, management and conservation of genetic resources;

2. manage and maintain the National Gene Bank;

3. manage state artificial insemination stations and provide services related to farm animals reproduction;

4. manage state laboratories, which analyze animal products' qualitative indicators needed for selection and provide services to farms, breeders' organisations and other organisations;

5. manage the National Reference Laboratory for genetic analyses in animal husbandry;

6. exercise control on the operation of breeders' organisations and on breeding activities;

7. (amended, SG No. 58/2017, effective 18.07.2017) also fulfil other functions assigned by the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry.

(2) The Executive Agency for Selection and Reproduction in Animal Husbandry shall collect fees in the amount defined by a Council of Ministers tariff for activities specified in Paragraph (1), items 3 through 5.

Article 3c. (New, SG No. 26/2010) Regional Agriculture Directorates shall implement the government policy on the territory of their corresponding region with respect to keeping and reproduction of farm animals, production and marketing of live animals, animal products, semen, ova, and embryos.

Article 4. (1) (Amended, SG No. 58/2017, effective 18.07.2017) A Council on Animal Husbandry shall be established as consultative body to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 18/2004, SG No. 58/2017, effective 18.07.2017) The Council on Animal Husbandry shall assist the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry in implementing the government policy in the field of animal husbandry.

(3) (Amended, SG No. 18/2004, SG No. 51/2007, SG No. 58/2017, effective 18.07.2017) The Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry shall appoint the members and issue Rules of Organisation, Procedure, and Financing for the Council on Animal Husbandry.

Article 5. (Amended, SG No. 18/2004, SG No. 51/2007, SG No. 26/2010) Animal husbandry organisations pursuant to this Act shall be defined as the breeders' organisations under Article 8.

Article 6. (Amended, SG No. 18/2004, supplemented, SG No. 51/2007, amended, SG No. 26/2010) Breeders' organisations are societies registered in accordance with the rules and procedure laid down in the Non-profit Legal Entities Act to operate in the public interest. They shall be established for the purpose of preserving and/or improving breeds, lines and hybrids of farm animals, protecting and controlling the origin and authenticity of animals and animal products.

Article 7. (Repealed, SG No. 18/2004).

Article 8. (Amended and supplemented, SG No. 18/2004, SG No. 51/2007, amended, SG No. 26/2010) (1) Breeders' organisations shall be incorporated based on natural persons or legal entities' free initiative to do breeding in respect of animal breeds, lines or hybrids. Breeders' organisations do breeding with animals owned by their members.

(2) A breeders' organisation shall do breeding with animals of a single species. It can form a society with other breeders' organisations which breed the same animal species.

(3) Breeding shall be done by breeders' organisations which have received a permit under Article 29b (3).

(4) Breeders' organisations do breeding on the basis of a breeding programme.

(5) The breeding programme shall be developed by experts in animal engineering.

(6) Breeders' organisations finance their operations by raising funds from:

1. membership fees;
2. target contributions;
3. donations and aid;
4. International Financial Institutions, programmes and organisations;
5. other revenue.

(7) (Amended, SG No. 58/2017, effective 18.07.2017) The Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry shall exercise overall supervision on breeding activities in animal husbandry.

(8) (Amended, SG No. 58/2017, effective 18.07.2017) The rules and procedure for doing breeding shall be defined by ordinances of the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry.

Article 9. (Repealed, SG No. 26/2010).

Article 10. (Amended, SG No. 18/2004, repealed, SG No. 26/2010).

Article 10a. (New, SG No. 51/2007, amended, SG No. 26/2010) The Council of Ministers, Regional Governors and Municipal Councils may provide, for free of charge use, the animal husbandry organisations with premises, either private state property or private municipal property, that are necessary for the implementation of their activities, pursuant to the procedure laid down in the State Property Act and in the Municipal Property Act.

Article 10b. (New, SG No. 51/2007) (1) (Amended, SG No. 26/2010, SG No. 66/2013, effective 26.07.2013, SG No. 98/2014, effective 28.11.2014, SG No. 58/2017, effective 18.07.2017) The Council of Ministers, upon proposal of the Minister of Regional Development and Public Works and the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, may vest a right to use free of charge premises that are private state property in the animal husbandry organisations.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 26/2010) Any premises and chattels provided for use to the animal husbandry organisations may not be:

1. let out;
2. remised;
3. used jointly under a contract with third persons;
4. included in the assets of trade companies;
5. used in a manner other than their intended use.

(3) (Amended, SG No. 26/2010, SG No. 58/2017, effective 18.07.2017) In case of violations to the prohibitions provided for in Paragraph (2), any premises and chattels provided to animal husbandry organisations under the procedure laid down in Paragraph (1) shall be withdrawn by an order of the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry and the contract for use concluded shall be terminated.

(4) (Amended, SG No. 26/2010) The animal husbandry organisations shall be liable to protect the property referred to in Paragraph (1). They shall be bound to insure it.

Article 11. (Amended, SG No. 18/2004, SG No. 51/2007, SG No. 26/2010) The animal husbandry organisations may carry out activities relating to the exercise of their functions under this Act, delegated by the Council of Ministers, the ministries, agencies and other government authorities in pursuance of the Public Procurement Act.

Article 11a. (New, SG No. 18/2004, amended, SG No. 51/2007, repealed, SG No. 26/2010).

Article 11b. (New, SG No. 18/2004, amended, SG No. 51/2007, repealed, SG No. 26/2010).

Article 11c. (New, SG No. 18/2004, amended, SG No. 51/2007, repealed, SG No. 26/2010).

Article 11d. (New, SG No. 18/2004, repealed, SG No. 51/2007).

Article 11e. (New, SG No. 18/2004, amended, SG No. 51/2007, repealed, SG No. 26/2010).

Article 11f. (New, SG No. 18/2004, amended, SG No. 51/2007) (1) The physico-chemical and microbiological analysis of raw milk and milk products shall be carried out by independent accredited laboratories.

(2) The laboratories referred to in Paragraph (1) should be accredited and work in compliance with BDS EN ISO/IEC 17025 "General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories".

(3) (Amended, SG No. 26/2010, SG No. 58/2017, effective 18.07.2017, SG No. 17/2018, effective 23.02.2018) The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry shall publish on its website an up-to-date list of independent accredited laboratories for testing of raw milk.

Article 11g. (New, SG No. 18/2004, repealed, SG No. 51/2007).

Article 11h. (New, SG No. 18/2004, repealed, SG No. 51/2007).

Article 11i. (New, SG No. 18/2004, repealed, SG No. 51/2007).

Article 11j. (New, SG No. 18/2004, repealed, SG No. 51/2007).

Article 11k. (New, SG No. 18/2004, repealed, SG No. 51/2007).

Article 12. (Supplemented, SG No. 18/2004, amended, SG No. 51/2007, repealed, SG No. 26/2010).

CHAPTER THREE

PRODUCTION, BREEDING AND MARKETING OF FARM ANIMALS, SEMEN, OVA, AND EMBRYOS

(Title supplemented, SG No. 18/2004, amended, SG No. 51/2007, SG No. 26/2010)

Section I Production

Article 13. (Amended, SG No. 18/2004) (1) Production shall comprise the activities, connected with keeping, feeding and reproduction of farm animals and the production of animal products intended for sale.

(2) (New, SG No. 26/2010) Animal products intended to be placed on the market shall be graded and classified in accordance with the provisions of the Common Organisations of Markets in Agricultural Products of the European Union Implementing Act.

(3) (Amended, SG No. 87/2005, SG No. 51/2007, renumbered from Paragraph 2, amended, SG No. 26/2010, SG No. 8/2011, effective 25.01.2011) The establishments for keeping farm animals shall be entered in the Animal Identification and Livestock Establishments Registration System maintained by the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency and shall be assigned a unique number relevant to the exercise of epizootics control.

(4) (New, SG No. 26/2010) Livestock establishments which keep animals for raw materials and food for personal use shall be defined as personal subsistence farms and their owners have no right to market raw materials and food produced in their establishments.

(5) (New, SG No. 26/2010, amended, SG No. 59/2012) Livestock establishments which keep animals for raw materials and food for marketing shall be defined as farms and shall be registered in accordance with the Veterinary Practices Act.

(6) (New, SG No. 26/2010) Zootechnical services for production pursuant to Paragraph (1) shall be delivered by experts in animal engineering.

(7) (New, SG No. 26/2010) Veterinary services for animals shall be delivered by a veterinary doctor pursuant to the procedure laid down in the Veterinary Practices Act.

(8) (New, SG No. 26/2010, amended, SG No. 58/2017, effective 18.07.2017) The rules and procedure for the operation of livestock farms in mountainous areas and other less favoured areas shall be defined in an ordinance by the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry.

Article 13a. (New, SG No. 18/2004) (1) (Previous Article 13a, SG No. 51/2007, amended and supplemented, SG No. 26/2010) The establishments under Article 13 (3) must meet the statutory conditions, specific for each type of farm animals according to the zootechnical, zoohygienic and veterinary hygiene requirements, as well as the legal requirements relating to environmental protection.

(2) (New, SG No. 51/2007, repealed, SG No. 26/2010).

Article 13b. (New, SG No. 26/2010) (1) Owners who keep farm animals in establishments specified in Article 13 (5) shall possess the required qualification for this activity. If the owner does not possess the required qualification he/she is obliged to sign a contract for animal keeping with an individual who possesses the required qualification.

(2) Individuals under Paragraph (1) who have no specialized educational background in agriculture shall attend a qualification training course and obtain a professional qualification document from the training institution.

(3) Individuals under Paragraph (1) shall own and store documents evidencing the title or timeshare rights over the premises and animals on a livestock establishment.

(4) Agricultural activities on a farm shall be performed only by a single person.

(5) The person specified in Paragraph (4) may perform agricultural activities in more than one farm.

Article 14. (Amended, SG No. 18/2004, repealed, SG No. 96/2006).

Article 14a. (New, SG No. 18/2004, repealed, SG No. 96/2006).

Article 14b. (New, SG No. 18/2004, amended, SG No. 105/2005, supplemented, SG No. 34/2006, repealed, SG No. 96/2006).

Article 14c. (New, SG No. 18/2004, repealed, SG No. 96/2006).

Article 14d. (New, SG No. 18/2004, repealed, SG No. 96/2006).

Article 14e. (New, SG No. 18/2004, repealed, SG No. 96/2006).

Article 14f. (New, SG No. 18/2004, repealed, SG No. 96/2006).

Article 14g. (New, SG No. 18/2004) (1) The keeping and reproduction of farm animals shall be carried out in establishments with land, sufficient for utilising the biologic wastes.

(2) (Repealed, SG No. 26/2010).

Article 14h. (New, SG No. 18/2004) (1) (Amended and supplemented, SG No. 26/2010, amended, SG No. 61/2015*) For the purpose of constructing animal farms and holdings based on grazing land to support the feeding up of animals, state-owned grazing land and commons shall be leased or given for tenancy under the conditions and following the procedure laid down in the Agricultural Land Ownership and Use Act and in the Farming Lease Act.

(2) Any grazing lands and commons listed in the State Forest Fund shall be rented out in pursuance of the procedure laid down in the Forestry Act.

(3) (Amended, SG No. 26/2010, SG No. 61/2015*, SG No. 58/2017, effective 18.07.2017) The Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry shall provide for free of charge use low production land and land in abandoned areas, according to Article 26 of the Agricultural Land Ownership and Use Act.

**This amendment concerns new spelling of a Bulgarian word which does not affect the English version.*

Article 15. (Amended, SG No. 18/2004) (1) (Amended, SG No. 26/2010, SG No. 58/2017, effective 18.07.2017, SG No. 17/2018, effective 23.02.2018) The Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry shall, by ordinances, lay down the rules for production and marketing of pure-bred and hybrid reproductive material of pigs and poultry, and the procedure for keeping a register.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 51/2007, SG No. 17/2018, effective 23.02.2018) The production of pure-bred and hybrid reproductive material of pigs and poultry shall be carried out in breeding farms and holdings members of breeders' organizations and registered according to the requirements of Paragraphs (3) to (5).

(3) (Amended and supplemented, SG No. 51/2007, amended, SG No. 26/2010, SG No. 58/2017, effective 18.07.2017, supplemented, SG No. 17/2018, effective 23.02.2018) Breeding farms and holdings may be legal entities and sole traders. The registration under Paragraph (2) shall be carried out by the Directors of the relevant Regional Agriculture Directorates with the Minister Agriculture, Food and Forestry on the basis of an application using a standard form and containing: the trader's company name, seat of business and registered address; type of activity, stream and capacity; species, breed, line or hybrid of the animals kept; location and type of the farm or holding (either pedigree or reproductive). Monthly, the Regional Agriculture Directorates shall provide the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry with information on any breeding farms and holdings registered.

(4) The following shall be attached to the application referred to in Paragraph (3):

1. (amended, SG No. 34/2006, repealed, SG No. 109/2013);

2. (repealed, SG No. 34/2006);

3. (amended, SG No. 105/2005, repealed, SG No. 34/2006);

4. (amended, SG No. 26/2010) certificate issued by the relevant breeders' organisation containing the identification number from the herd-register or the zootechnical book of the breeding holding or farm;

5. (amended, SG No. 17/2018, effective 23.02.2018) pedigrees, the breed or the line for the relevant species (pigs or poultry);

6. technological scheme and prevention programme of the farm or holding.

(5) Within 14 days of receipt of the application, the Director of the relevant Regional Agriculture Directorate, or an official authorised by him, may require the applicant to produce a written supplement to or clarification of the documents referred to in Paragraphs (3) and (4).

(6) Within the timeline set in Paragraph (5), after receiving the application and the documents referred to in Paragraphs (3) and (4) or after receiving of the additional data provided for in Paragraph (5), the Director of the relevant Regional Agriculture

Directorate, or an official authorised by him, shall register the breeding farm or holding or make a refusal, providing justification for such action.

(7) The owners or managers of any breeding farms and holdings registered shall be bound to declare before the relevant Regional Agriculture Directorate any variations to the circumstances referred to in Paragraphs (3) and (4) within one month of the occurrence thereof.

(8) The registration shall be valid for a period of 5 years and this term of validity may be renewed on the basis of application, accompanied by the documents referred to in Items 4 to 6 of Paragraph (4). The registration may be deleted by an order of the Director of the relevant Regional Agriculture Directorate:

1. upon request by the producer;
2. upon winding up or liquidation of the legal entity;
3. upon suspending the production for a period of 12 months;
4. where an operational act issued by a control body found that there is any variation to the circumstances on the basis of which the registration has been carried out and this variation has not been declared within the timeline set in Paragraph (5).

(9) The refusal under Paragraph (6), as well as the order under Paragraph (8), shall be subject to appeal under the procedure laid down in the Administrative Procedure Code.

Article 15a. (New, SG No. 18/2004, amended, SG No. 51/2007) (1) (Amended, SG No. 26/2010, SG No. 59/2012) Production of silkworm seed shall be carried out by legal entities, sole traders and/or scientific institutes after registration with the Regional Agriculture Directorate by location of the enterprise.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 26/2010, SG No. 59/2012) For the purpose of carrying out the activities referred to in Paragraph (1), these persons shall lodge an application with Director of the Regional Agriculture Directorate, attaching the following therewith:

1. a copy of diploma for completed higher education with Sericulture major held by the persons referred to in Paragraph (1) or the persons, employed for the activity;
2. certificate of ownership of silkworm seed hybrid/hybrids issued by the Patent Office or a contract concluded with the owner of such hybrid for the sale and purchasing of super-elite and/or elite grade silkworm seed;
3. a description of the production technology as per silkworm seed grades, of the facilities for receiving, placing and processing cocoons, settling pupae and moths, and of the equipment for producing, controlling and storing silkworm seed.

(3) (Amended, SG No. 26/2010, SG No. 59/2012, SG No. 58/2017, effective 18.07.2017) Within one month of receipt of the application and of the documents referred to in Paragraph (2), Director of the Regional Agriculture Directorate, or an official authorised by him, shall issue a certificate of registration or shall make a refusal providing justification for such action. If necessary, within the above timeline, the applicant may be required to produce a written supplement to or clarification of the documents referred to in Paragraph (2). The Regional Agriculture Directorates shall submit to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry information regarding the enterprises registered.

(4) The registration shall be valid for a period of 5 years and this term of validity may be renewed under the conditions and following the procedure laid down in Paragraph (2).

(5) (Amended, SG No. 26/2010, SG No. 59/2012) The owners or managers of any registered establishments shall declare before the Regional Agriculture Directorate any variations to the circumstances referred to in Paragraph (3) within one month of the occurrence thereof.

(6) (Amended, SG No. 26/2010, SG No. 59/2012) The registration shall be deleted by an order of the Regional Agriculture Directorate:

1. upon request by the producer;
2. upon winding up or liquidation of the legal entity;

3. upon decease of the natural person;
4. upon suspending the production for a period of 12 months;
5. where an operational act issued by a control body found that there is any variation to the circumstances on the basis of which the registration has been carried out and this variation has not been declared within the timeline set under Paragraph (6).

(7) The refusal of registration and the order under Paragraph (6) shall be subject to appeal before the Supreme Administrative Court under the procedure laid down in the Administrative Procedure Code.

(8) (Amended, SG No. 26/2010) Marketing of silkworm seed shall be carried out in batches and each of these shall be accompanied by the following documents:

1. pedigree;
2. veterinary certificate verifying the absence of the Silkworm Nosema Disease;
3. invoice for the silkworm seed purchased or a contract concluded with the holder of the certificate referred to in Item 1 where the trader is not the producer of the seed.

Article 16. (Repealed, SG No. 18/2004).

Article 17. (Repealed, SG No. 18/2004).

Article 18. (Amended and supplemented, SG No. 18/2004, amended, SG No. 51/2007, SG No. 26/2010) (1) All animal breeds in the Republic of Bulgaria form the genetic resources in animal husbandry.

(2) Farm animal breeds shall be classified as follows:

1. local breeds;
2. locally adapted and newly created breeds;
3. transborder breeds;
4. introduced breeds;
5. synthetic populations.

(3) Depending on the risk status, local and locally adapted farm animal breeds shall be classified as follows:

1. extinct breeds;
2. near-extinct breeds;
3. endangered breeds;
4. non-endangered breeds;

(4) From a breeding perspective, the most valuable portion of each breed shall form its gene fund and the sum of gene funds from all breeds shall form the National Gene Fund.

(5) The National Gene Fund is structured by species and breeds of farm animals.

(6) (Amended, SG No. 58/2017, effective 18.07.2017) The Executive Agency for Selection and Reproduction in Animal Husbandry shall maintain a register of male breeding animals and a register of breeding herds from the National Gene Fund, which shall be annually updated based on a proposal by breeders' organisations and shall be approved by virtue of an order by the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry.

Article 18a. (New, SG No. 51/2007, amended, SG No. 26/2010) (1) The Executive Agency for Selection and Reproduction in Animal Husbandry shall manage and preserve animal husbandry genetic resources.

(2) The chief executive officer of the Executive Agency for Selection and Reproduction in Animal Husbandry shall function as the national coordinator on genetic resources in animal husbandry.

(3) A National Council shall be instituted under the national coordinator on genetic resources in animal husbandry, which will consist of non-governmental representatives designated by their respective organisations according to the organisational charters.

(4) (Amended, SG No. 58/2017, effective 18.07.2017) The operation of the National Council under Article 3 shall be specified in Rules and Regulations issued by the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry.

Article 19. Veterinary services and controls, as well as prevention in animal husbandry shall be carried out under the procedure laid down in the Veterinary Practices Act.

Section II

Farm animal breeding

(Title amended, SG No. 26/2010)

Article 20. (Amended, SG No. 18/2004, SG No. 51/2007, SG No. 26/2010) Farm animal breeding shall consist of:

1. identification and registration of animals needed for selection purposes;
2. controls on biological, farming and productive traits subject to selection, while independent accredited laboratories perform the qualitative analysis thereof;
3. determining the breeding value of animals;
4. selection of breeding stock;
5. selection by applying different breeding methods;
6. keeping a zootechnical register, a breeding book and other zootechnical records;
7. keeping a herd-book;
8. issuing a certificate of origin and a zootechnical certificate;
9. reproduction.

Article 21. (Amended, SG No. 18/2004, SG No. 51/2007, repealed, SG No. 26/2010).

Article 21a. (New, SG No. 18/2004, amended, SG No. 51/2007, repealed, SG No. 26/2010).

Article 22. (Amended, SG No. 26/2010) The activities under Article 20 shall have as their objective:

1. (amended, SG No. 18/2004, SG No. 51/2007, amended and supplemented, SG No. 26/2010) the conservation of the National Gene Fund and genetic improvement of any farm animal breeds, populations, lines and hybrids;
2. (amended, SG No. 18/2004, SG No. 51/2007, amended and supplemented, SG No. 26/2010) the keeping, breeding, and sustainable development of existing farm animal breeds, populations, lines, and hybrids;

3. (amended, SG No. 18/2004, repealed, SG No. 26/2010);

4. (new, SG No. 51/2007) the creation of new breeds.

Article 23. (Amended, SG No. 18/2004, SG No. 51/2007, SG No. 26/2010) (1) Activities specified in Article 20, items 3 through 9 shall be performed by experts in animal engineering.

(2) Activities specified in Article 20, items 1 and 2 may be performed by individuals authorised by breeders' organisations.

(3) The rules and procedure for the performance of activities under Article 20 shall be specified in the ordinances under Article 8 (8).

Article 24. (Amended, SG No. 18/2004, amended and supplemented, SG No. 51/2007, amended, SG No. 26/2010) (1) The Executive Agency for Selection and Reproduction in Animal Husbandry shall establish and maintain an information system for the purpose of exercising the controls under Article 47, item 3.

(2) Breeders' organisation shall provide information needed for the establishment and functioning of the information system specified in Paragraph (1) in the form and timeline defined by the Executive Agency for Selection and Reproduction in Animal Husbandry.

(3) Breeders' organisations shall notify the Executive Agency for Selection and Reproduction in Animal Husbandry of any change of facts relevant to Paragraph (2) within one month of that change.

Article 25. (Supplemented, SG No. 18/2004, amended, SG No. 51/2007) Any pure-bred breeding animals and parental lines of poultry shall be identified and entered in herd-books.

Article 26. (Amended, SG No. 18/2004) Any crosses, hybrids, reproductive herds of pigs and parental herds of poultry shall be entered in zootechnical registers or books.

Article 27. (Amended, SG No. 18/2004) (1) (Previous Article 27, amended, SG No. 51/2007, SG No. 26/2010) The herd-books and the zootechnical registers shall be kept by breeders' organisations authorised under the procedure laid down in Article 29b (2), while the zootechnical books shall be kept by the experts or farmers at the breeding holdings.

(2) (New, SG No. 51/2007, amended, SG No. 26/2010, SG No. 58/2017, effective 18.07.2017) In the case of pure-bred or semibred foreign horse breeds in respect of which common international requirements are in place, the herd-books shall be kept by organisations approved by an order of the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry.

(3) (New, SG No. 51/2007, supplemented, SG No. 26/2010) Breeders' organisations and the organisations referred to in Paragraph (2) may not refuse to enter in the relevant herd-books any pure-bred breeding animals and registered equidae, if these originate from another Member State of the European Union, provided these animals meet the requirements for entry into herd-books laid down by the Standing Committee on Zootechnics.

Article 28. (1) (Supplemented, SG No. 18/2004, amended, SG No. 51/2007, SG No. 26/2010) The criteria to be met by any pure-bred, pure-line breeding animals and registered equidae intended for breeding in order to be entered in the herd-books shall be determined in a non-discriminatory manner and shall cover:

1. (amended, SG No. 18/2004) the origin, determined in compliance with the rules for keeping the herd-book;

2. (amended, SG No. 18/2004) identification after birth or hatching according to the rules for keeping the herd-book;

3. (repealed, SG No. 18/2004).

(2) (Amended and supplemented, SG No. 18/2004, amended, SG No. 51/2007, SG No. 26/2010) The conditions and the procedure for making entries into the herd-books, as well as in the zootechnical registers and books, for determining the

breeding value of any breeding animals shall be laid down in the ordinances provided for in Article 8 (8).

Article 29. (1) (Amended, SG No. 51/2007, SG No. 26/2010, SG No. 58/2017, effective 18.07.2017) For the purpose of obtaining a license to carry out breeding activities, the breeders' organisations shall lodge an application with the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry attaching the following therewith:

1. (amended, SG No. 26/2010) certified copy of the court's decision on the incorporation of a non-profit legal entity accompanied by:

a) (repealed, SG No. 109/2013);

b) certified copy of the certificate for entry in the Ministry of Justice Central Register for non-profit legal entities operating to the public interest;

2. (amended, SG No. 26/2010) breeding programme for each individual breed, line or hybrid, which shall have the following mandatory elements:

a) specification of the breed;

b) clearly formulated breeding objective;

c) selection (controlled) traits;

d) breeding and pedigree structure of the breed;

e) factors relating to breeding policy;

f) methods to control traits that are subject to selection;

g) breeding value assessment methods;

h) breeding methods;

i) selection scheme for individual categories of parents;

3. (amended, SG No. 26/2010) list and location of herds and individual animals included in the breeding programme;

4. (amended, SG No. 26/2010) evidence that they:

a) operate effectively;

b) are able to perform inspections that are required for pedigree registration;

c) register the origin of animals;

d) operate with a sufficiently large population for the completion of the breed improvement programme or operate with a sufficiently large population for breed conservation, if this is considered to be necessary;

e) are able to use the animal traits data that are required to complete the breed improvement programme or the breed conservation programme;

5. (amended, SG No. 26/2010) set of rules (guideline), which cover:

a) the ways to define breed characteristics;

b) the animal identification system;

c) the animal registration system;

d) the exercise of control over productive qualities and traits that are subject to the breeding programme;

e) zootechnical data usage system;

f) the methods of keeping the pedigree book, if there are different requirements for entering animal data or if there are different classification procedures for animals that are entered in the book;

6. (amended, SG No. 26/2010) rules of procedure adopted according to the breeders' organisation charter which define the principle of non-discrimination among members.

7. declaration to enter animals and keep a herd-book;

8. declaration that the animals subject of the breed-improvement programme will be identified;

9. declaration to observe the principle of non-discrimination between members of the breeders' organisation guaranteeing each animal breeder, living and/or working in the region falling within the jurisdiction of the organisation, the opportunity to take part in its activities.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 51/2007, SG No. 26/2010, SG No. 58/2017, effective 18.07.2017) The Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry shall not allow for discrimination in the process of issuing the permits referred to in Paragraph (1).

(3) (Repealed, SG No. 51/2007).

(4) (Repealed, SG No. 51/2007).

(5) (Repealed, SG No. 51/2007).

Article 29a. (New, SG No. 51/2007) (1) (Amended, SG No. 26/2010, SG No. 58/2017, effective 18.07.2017) The Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry shall, by an order, appoint a Committee to examine the application provided for in Article 29 (1) and any accompanying documents within 4 months of the receipt thereof and to present a report before the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry containing a proposal for either granting or refusing a permit.

(2) (Amended and supplemented, SG No. 26/2010, amended, SG No. 58/2017, effective 18.07.2017) The Committee provided for in Paragraph (1) shall include representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, the Executive Agency for Selection and Reproduction in Animal Husbandry, as well as scholars who are experts in breeding relevant animal species.

(3) The Committee provided for in Paragraph (1) may carry out on-the-spot checks in respect of any circumstances declared and the breed-improvement programme.

(4) (Amended, SG No. 26/2010, SG No. 58/2017, effective 18.07.2017) The Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry shall issue Rules of Procedure for the Committee provided for in Paragraph (1).

Article 29b. (New, SG No. 51/2007) (1) (Amended, SG No. 26/2010, SG No. 58/2017, effective 18.07.2017) The Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry shall refuse to grant a permit, where:

1. the documents referred to in Article 29 (1) have not been provided;

2. (amended, SG No. 26/2010) the breeding programme threatens the conservation and development of the breed or there are circumstances which threaten the implementation of an existing organisation or society's breeding programme;

3. an on-the-spot check under Article 29a (1) has found incompliance of the documents presented pursuant to Article 29 (1) with the actual circumstances.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 26/2010, SG No. 58/2017, effective 18.07.2017) The Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry shall either grant a permit or refuse to grant a permit providing justification for such action within 10 days of the date on which the Committee has presented its report.

(3) (Amended, SG No. 26/2010) The permit shall be granted for a period of 10 years. The permit shall be renewed under the conditions and in pursuance of the procedure laid down in Articles 29, 29a, and in this Article.

(4) (New, SG No. 26/2010) Any breeders' organisation which was refused a breeding permit is allowed to reapply one year after the refusal notification.

Article 30. (1) (Amended, SG No. 51/2007) The applicant shall be notified, in pursuance of the procedure laid down in the Code of Civil Procedure, of the decision under Article 29b (2) within 14 days of the date on which it has been made.

(2) The refusal shall be subject to appeal before the Supreme Administrative Court under the procedure laid down in the Administrative Procedure Code.

Article 31. (1) (Amended and supplemented, SG No. 51/2007, amended, SG No. 26/2010, SG No. 58/2017, effective 18.07.2017) The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry shall keep a public register of any permits issued under Article 29b (2).

(2) (Amended, SG No. 51/2007, SG No. 26/2010) The following shall be entered into the register under Paragraph (1):

1. the name and contact information of the breeders' organisation;
2. date of approval and number of the permit;
3. the name of the breed(s) which are covered by the breeding programme.

(3) (New, SG No. 26/2010, amended, SG No. 58/2017, effective 18.07.2017) Presidents of breeders' organisations must notify the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry of any change of facts under Paragraph (2), item 1 within one month of the change.

(4) (New, SG No. 26/2010, amended, SG No. 58/2017, effective 18.07.2017) The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry shall forward the register under Paragraph (1) and the register of organisations under Article 27 (2) to the European Commission and the European Union Member States' official authorities.

Article 32. (Repealed, SG No. 51/2007).

Article 32a. (New, SG No. 51/2007) (1) The Executive Agency for Selection and Reproduction in Animal Husbandry shall check the activities of the breeders' organisation and make recommendations to eliminate, within three months, any deficiencies and irregularities found.

(2) (Amended and supplemented, SG No. 26/2010, amended, SG No. 58/2017, effective 18.07.2017) If there are findings of ceased operations, infringements causing inability to complete the breeding programme or deficiencies and irregularities have not been eliminated, the Executive Agency for Selection and Reproduction in Animal Husbandry shall draw up a report to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry containing a proposal for withdrawal of the permit.

(3) (New, SG No. 26/2010, amended, SG No. 58/2017, effective 18.07.2017) The Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry shall revoke a breeders' organisation permit to perform breeding activities, if the breeders' organisation:

1. has not launched breeding activities;
2. endangers the breed;
3. fails to provide information to control bodies;
4. discriminates its members;
5. fails to spend funding provided by the government according to requirements;
6. (new, SG No. 59/2012) engages in activity in violation of Article 8(1) or (2).

(4) (Renumbered from Paragraph 3, SG No. 26/2010, amended, SG No. 59/2012) Withdrawal of the permit shall be announced and may be appealed against under the procedure of the Code of Administrative Procedure before the Supreme Administrative Court. The appeal against an act shall not suspend its enforcement.

(5) (Renumbered from Paragraph 4, amended and supplemented, SG No. 26/2010, amended, SG No. 58/2017, effective

18.07.2017) In the cases falling under Paragraphs (2) and (3), the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry may, by an order, delete the breeders' organisation from the register and revoke its entitlement to subsidies as well as its right to use and manage any property provided for the purpose of carrying out its activities.

Article 33. (Amended, SG No. 51/2007) (1) (Amended, SG No. 8/2011, effective 25.01.2011) The obtaining, processing and storage of semen, the transplantation of ova and embryos shall be carried out only in artificial insemination centres, semen storage centres and embryo transplantation centres, approved and registered by the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency in pursuance of the Veterinary Practices Act.

(2) For the purposes of selection and reproduction, the Executive Agency for Selection and Reproduction in Animal Husbandry shall make use of the information contained in the register under Article 137 of the Veterinary Practices Act.

(3) (New, SG No. 26/2010) Products specified in Paragraph (1) shall be used only, if a zootechnical certificate of the nursery of origin is available.

(4) (Renumbered from Paragraph 3, amended, SG No. 26/2010) Any male breeding animals shall be used for natural coupling, if veterinary and zootechnical certificates have been issued.

Article 34. (Repealed, SG No. 51/2007).

Article 35. (Repealed, SG No. 51/2007).

Article 36. (Repealed, SG No. 51/2007).

Article 37. (Repealed, SG No. 51/2007).

Article 38. (Repealed, SG No. 18/2004).

Section III

Marketing of animals, semen, ova, and embryos (Title amended, SG No. 18/2004, SG No. 26/2010)

Article 38a. (New, SG No. 18/2004, effective 1.01.2005, amended, SG No. 51/2007, repealed, SG No. 26/2010).

Article 38b. (New, SG No. 18/2004, effective 1.01.2005, amended, SG No. 51/2007, SG No. 43/2008, repealed, SG No. 26/2010).

Article 38c. (New, SG No. 18/2004, effective 1.01.2005, repealed, SG No. 26/2010).

Article 38d. (New, SG No. 18/2004, effective 1.01.2005, repealed, SG No. 26/2010).

Article 38e. (New, SG No. 18/2004, effective 1.01.2005, amended, SG No. 96/2006, repealed, SG No. 26/2010).

Article 38f. (New, SG No. 18/2004, effective 1.01.2005, repealed, SG No. 26/2010).

Article 38g. (New, SG No. 18/2004, repealed, SG No. 26/2010).

Article 38h. (New, SG No. 18/2004, amended and supplemented, SG No. 51/2007, repealed, SG No. 26/2010).

Article 38i. (New, SG No. 51/2007, repealed, SG No. 26/2010).

Article 39. (1) (New, SG No. 18/2004, amended, SG No. 51/2007, SG No. 26/2010) Marketing of live animals shall be carried out at markets and market-places, at farms and holdings in compliance with the requirements of this Act and of the Veterinary Practices Act.

(2) (Renumbered from Paragraph (1), SG No. 18/2004, repealed, SG No. 51/2007).

(3) (Renumbered from Paragraph (2), amended, SG No. 18/2004, repealed, SG No. 51/2007).

Article 39a. (New, SG No. 51/2007) (1) (Amended, SG No. 26/2010) The marketing of pure-bred breeding animals, hybrids, registered equidae, semen, ova, and embryos may not be prohibited or restricted on zootechnical and genealogical grounds, except for the grounds ensuing from this Act and the ordinances provided for in Article 8 (8).

(2) (Repealed, SG No. 26/2010).

(3) (New, SG No. 26/2010) Pure-bred breeding animals, hybrids, semen, ova, and embryos on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria shall be marketed, if a zootechnical certificate or certificate of origin are available. If registered equidae are marketed, they shall be accompanied by an ID document (a passport).

(4) (New, SG No. 26/2010) The rules and procedure for marketing race equidae and the procedure for participation of equidae in races shall be laid down in an ordinance provided for in Article 8 (8).

(5) (Renumbered from Paragraph 3, amended, SG No. 26/2010, SG No. 58/2017, effective 18.07.2017) The documents referred to in Paragraph (3) shall be issued by the breeders' organisations, and, in the case of pure-bred horses, by organisations approved by an order of the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry.

(6) (Renumbered from Paragraph 4, amended, SG No. 26/2010, SG No. 58/2017, effective 18.07.2017) Where the existence of the breeds of animals referred to in Article 18 (3), items 2 and 3 is threatened, the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, acting upon proposal of the Executive Agency for Selection and Reproduction in Animal Husbandry, may prohibit or restrict their export by an order.

(7) (New, SG No. 26/2010) Copies of Paragraph (3) documents issued outside the Republic of Bulgaria shall be submitted to the Executive Agency for Selection and Reproduction in Animal Husbandry.

Article 40. (Amended, SG No. 18/2004, repealed, SG No. 51/2007).

Article 41. (Repealed, SG No. 18/2004).

Article 42. (Repealed, SG No. 18/2004).

Article 43. (Amended, SG No. 51/2007) The import from third countries of pure-bred breeding animals, hybrids, and registered equidae shall be allowed, provided the animals are:

1. entered in a herd-book or in a zootechnical register of the exporting country kept a breeders' organisation meeting the requirements of Article 44a;
2. accompanied by a zootechnical certificate, identification document (passport) in the case of equidae, evidencing their origin

and performance;

3. accompanied by a veterinary certificate pursuant to Item 3 of Article 56 (1) of the Veterinary Practices Act;

4. accompanied by a document certifying that the pure-bred breeding animals, hybrids and registered equidae are to be listed in a herd-book or in a zootechnical register kept within the European Community upon expiration of the quarantine period.

Article 44. (Amended, SG No. 18/2004, SG No. 51/2007) (1) The import of biological products from third countries shall be carried out in observance of the following requirements:

1. ova and embryos should originate from an animal listed in a herd-book or zootechnical register of the exporting country kept by a breeders' organisation meeting the requirements of Article 44a;

2. ova and embryos should be accompanied by zootechnical and veterinary certificates.

(2) The import of semen from third countries shall be carried out in observance of the following requirements:

1. it should originate from an animal listed in a herd-book or zootechnical register of the exporting country kept by a breeders' organisation meeting the requirements of Article 44a;

2. it should originate from an animal that has been subject to livestock performance controls with its breeding value determined;

3. it should be accompanied by zootechnical and veterinary certificates.

(3) The importer shall be responsible for organising the storage of semen, ova, and embryos imported in compliance with the Veterinary Practices Act.

Article 44a. (New, SG No. 18/2004, amended, SG No. 51/2007) (1) The import provided for in Article 43 and 44 shall be possible only where the breeders' organisation controlling the animals appears on the list compiled by the competent authorities of the third country and presented before the European Commission.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 58/2017, effective 18.07.2017) The Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry may make a reasoned proposal to the European Commission in order to introduce additional requirements for the import from third countries of pure-bred breeding animals, hybrids, registered equidae, semen, ova, and embryos, other than those referred to in Articles 43 and 44.

Article 44b. (New, SG No. 51/2007) (1) (Amended, SG No. 26/2010) The Executive Agency for Selection and Reproduction in Animal Husbandry shall control the import of breeding animals, semen, ova, and embryos from third countries and the export from the country of any endangered and near-extinct breeds.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 26/2010, SG No. 58/2017, effective 18.07.2017) The conditions and the procedure for carrying out the controls provided for in Paragraph (1) shall be laid down in an ordinance of the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry.

CHAPTER FOUR

CONTROLS IN ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Article 45. (1) (Supplemented, SG No. 18/2004, SG No. 51/2007, amended, SG No. 26/2010) The government control bodies in animal husbandry shall carry out controls on the production, breeding and marketing of farm animals, semen, ova, and embryos.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 18/2004, amended and supplemented, SG No. 51/2007, amended, SG No. 26/2010) The breeders' organisations and the establishments referred to in Article 14g, Article 15 (2), Article 33 (1) shall be subject to these controls.

Article 46. The controls shall include:

1. (supplemented, SG No. 18/2004, amended, SG No. 26/2010) check of the condition and the manner of using the buildings, the installations and the technical equipment relating to the production, breeding and marketing of animals, semen, ova, and embryos;
2. sampling for the purpose of carrying out analyses and tests;
3. check of the documentation concerning the activities carried out.
4. (amended, SG No. 18/2004, repealed, SG No. 51/2007).
5. (new, SG No. 26/2010) conformity check of feeding and the technology of keeping the animals in respect of the needs of the relevant species, breed, and category of farm animals;
6. (new, SG No. 26/2010) check of animals' condition.

Article 46a. (New, SG No. 51/2007, amended, SG No. 26/2010) The controls on breeding include conformity checks with the requirements of ordinances provided for in Article 8 (8), Article 39a, and Article 44b (2).

Article 47. The controls shall be carried out by:

1. (supplemented, SG No. 18/2004, SG No. 51/2007, repealed, SG No. 26/2010) ;
2. (new, SG No. 18/2004, amended, SG No. 51/2007) the Regional Agriculture Directorates in respect of any of the establishments referred to in Article 14g and Article 15 (2);
3. (new, SG No. 18/2004, amended and supplemented, SG No. 51/2007, amended, SG No. 26/2010, SG No. 58/2017, effective 18.07.2017) the Executive Agency for Selection and Reproduction in Animal Husbandry in respect of breeders' organisations and activities provided for in Articles 46 and 46a in accordance with the rules and procedures laid down in ordinances by the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry.
4. (renumbered from Item 2, SG No. 18/2004) the government control bodies referred to in the Veterinary Practices Act.

Article 48. The control bodies shall have the right to:

1. free access to and carry out checks at the controlled establishments;
2. require data on the controls of selection indices and any established breeding values, including the methods for achieving them;
3. require data on the conditions for keeping animals and for production of animal products;
4. (amended, SG No. 26/2010) receive information and to analyse the compliance with the requirements for separate buying out of pure-bred breeding animals and hybrids;
5. (amended, SG No. 51/2007) carry out controls on the quality of any semen, ova, and embryos obtained, to control the conditions for the storage thereof and the procedure for using male breeding animals for natural coupling;
6. (supplemented, SG No. 26/2010) give mandatory prescriptions to remedy violations;
7. draw up acts for any administrative violations found.

Article 49. The persons subject to controls shall be bound to provide the bodies referred to in Article 47 with access to the controlled establishments, to cooperate with them and to implement their prescriptions.

CHAPTER FIVE

ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY PROVISIONS

Article 50. (Repealed, SG No. 18/2004).

Article 51. (Repealed, SG No. 18/2004).

Article 51a. (New, SG No. 18/2004, repealed, SG No. 96/2006).

Article 51b. (New, SG No. 18/2004, repealed, SG No. 96/2006).

Article 51c. (New, SG No. 18/2004) (1) (Amended, SG No. 26/2010) Any person who produces and/or markets pure-bred and hybrid breeding material in violation of the rules laid down in Article 15 (1) shall be punished with fine or pecuniary sanction in amount from BGN 1,000 to BGN 2,000.

(2) Any person who produces pure-bred and hybrid breeding material, without being registered, in violation of Article 15 (2), shall be punished with fine or pecuniary sanction in amount from BGN 1,500 to BGN 3,000.

Article 51d. (New, SG No. 18/2004) (1) (Amended, SG No. 26/2010) Any person who produces and/or markets pure-bred and hybrid silkworm eggs in violation of the rules laid down in Article 15a (1), shall be punished with fine from BGN 1,000 to BGN 2,000.

(2) Any person who produces pure-bred and hybrid silkworm eggs without being registered under Article 15a (2), shall be punished with fine of BGN 500.

(3) Where the violations referred to in Paragraphs (1) and (2) have been committed by a legal entity or a sole trader, pecuniary sanction in amount from BGN 1,000 to BGN 2,000 shall be imposed.

Article 52. (1) (Amended, SG No. 51/2007) Any person who provides semen for artificial insemination, ova, embryos, and male breeding animals for production of fresh semen in violation of the requirements laid down in Article 33 (1) shall be punished with fine from BGN 200 to BGN 300, if not subject to a graver penalty.

(2) Where the violation referred to in Paragraph (1) has been committed by a legal entity, pecuniary sanction in amount from BGN 500 to BGN 800 shall be imposed.

Article 53. (1) (Amended, SG No. 51/2007, SG No. 26/2010) Any person who allows the use of male breeding animals for natural coupling without having veterinary and zootechnical certificates in violation of Article 33 (4) shall be punished with fine from BGN 500 to BGN 1,000.

(2) Where the violation referred to in Paragraph (1) has been committed by a legal entity, pecuniary sanction in amount from BGN 600 to BGN 900 shall be imposed.

Article 53a. (New, SG No. 18/2004, repealed, SG No. 26/2010).

Article 54. (1) Any person who refuses or impedes the implementation of the activities of government control bodies referred to in Article 46 shall be punished with fine from BGN 300 to BGN 400, provided he is no subject to graver penalty.

(2) Where the violation referred to in Paragraph (1) has been committed by a legal entity, pecuniary sanction in amount from BGN 800 to BGN 1,200 shall be imposed.

Article 55. (Repealed, SG No. 26/2010).

Article 56. (1) (Supplemented, SG No. 26/2010) Any person who conceals information or provides inaccurate information to the control bodies in violation of the requirements laid down in Article 24 (2) and (3) and Items 2 to 4 of Article 48 shall be punished with fine from BGN 400 to BGN 600, provided he is no subject to a graver penalty.

(2) Where the violation referred to in Paragraph (1) has been committed by a legal entity, pecuniary sanction in amount from BGN 1,000 to BGN 1,500 shall be imposed.

Article 57. (Amended, SG No. 18/2004) In the case of any repeated violations referred to in Articles 51a to 56, the fines or pecuniary sanctions provided for herein shall be imposed double their amount.

Article 58. (1) The acts establishing the violations shall be drawn up by the persons referred to in Article 47.

(2) (Amended, SG No. 58/2017, effective 18.07.2017) The penalty decrees shall be issued by the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry or by officials authorised by him.

(3) The establishing of the violations, the issuing, the appeal and the enforcement of any penalty decrees shall be carried out in pursuance of the Administrative Violations and Sanctions Act.

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS

(Title amended, SG No. 26/2010)

§ 1. Within the meaning of this Act:

1. (Amended, SG No. 51/2007, repealed, SG No. 26/2010).

2. (Amended, SG No. 51/2007, repealed, SG No. 26/2010).

3. "Reproduction" shall mean maintaining and increasing certain number of farm animals.

3a. (New, SG No. 51/2007, repealed, SG No. 26/2010).

4. (Amended, SG No. 26/2010) "Animal species" shall mean a population of specimens with similar biological characteristics, which is separated from other populations through one of the forms of reproductive isolation.

5. (Amended, SG No. 18/2004) "Animal products" shall mean meat, milk, eggs, wool and cocoons.

5a. (Repealed, SG No. 51/2007).

6. (Supplemented, SG No. 26/2010) "Zootechnical certificate" shall mean a document about the origin, productivity, and genetic value of any registered animal, which is required for marketing of breeding farm animals.

6a. (New, SG No. 51/2007, amended, SG No. 26/2010) "Zootechnical register" shall mean a book, register, or electronic register kept by a breeders' organisation licensed to carry out breeding of farm animals and poultry containing the animal's identification number, date of birth, sex, breed, dam and sire, the owner of the farm, as well as the settlement (location).

7. (Amended, SG No. 26/2010) "Category" shall mean a group of specimens of a single breed which can be separated based on age, physiological or breeding characteristics.

8. (Amended, SG No. 51/2007) "Controls on livestock performance" shall mean a procedure for quantification of traits describing certain performance characteristics of a single animal given the conditions under which it is kept.
9. "Crosses" shall mean any specimens obtained through cross-breeding animals from different breeds.
10. "Line" shall mean a structural unit of the breed bearing its peculiarities, but having also its own typical features.
11. (Amended, SG No. 26/2010) "Keeping" shall mean a complex of zootechnical measures ensuring the optimal growth, development, and productivity of animals in view of their biological specificities.
12. (Repealed, SG No. 18/2004).
13. (Repealed, SG No. 51/2007).
14. (Repealed, SG No. 51/2007).
- 14a. (New, SG No. 51/2007) "Pedigree herd" shall mean a herd of pure-bred animals with which breeding activities are carried out.
15. (Repealed, SG No. 26/2010).
- 15a. (New, SG No. 51/2007, repealed, SG No. 26/2010).
16. "Repeated violation" shall mean any violation committed within one year of the date of enforcement of the penalty decree whereby a sanction for a violation of the same kind has been imposed.
17. (Repealed, SG No. 26/2010).
18. (Amended, SG No. 51/2007, SG No. 26/2010) "Breed" shall mean a man-made group of animals of a single species, having the same origin and evolution, created in specific environmental farming conditions and defined by unique biological and farming characteristics that are consistently inherited.
- 18a. (New, SG No. 18/2004, amended, SG No. 26/2010) "Representative markets" shall mean markets where live farm animals and/or products thereof are marketed.
- 18b. (New, SG No. 51/2007, repealed, SG No. 26/2010).
- 18c. (New, SG No. 51/2007, amended, SG No. 26/2010) "Endangered breed" shall mean any breed in which the total number of female breeding animals is between 100 and 1,000 or the total number of male breeding animals is less than or equal to 20, but exceeds 5; or the total population size is close to or a little higher than 100 and there is a trend towards increase, while the percentage of pure-bred females is above 80 per cent; or the total population size is close to or a little higher than 1,000 and there is a trend towards decrease, while the percentage of pure-bred females is lower than 80 per cent.
- 18d. (New, SG No. 51/2007, amended, SG No. 26/2010) "Near-extinct breed" shall mean any breed in which the total number of female breeding animals is less than 100, while the number of male breeding animals is less than or equal to 5; or the total population size is close to or a little higher than 100 and there is a trend towards decrease, while the percentage of pure-bred females is less than 80 per cent.
- 18e. (New, SG No. 51/2007, amended, SG No. 26/2010) "Non-endangered breed" shall mean any breed in which the total number of breeding females exceeds 1,000 or the total number of breeding males exceeds 20.
- 18f. (New, SG No. 51/2007, repealed, SG No. 26/2010).
19. "Breeding farms and holdings" shall mean any farms and holdings for production of pure-bred breeding animals and hybrids, implementing certain breed-improvement programmes.
20. "Breeding value" shall mean the sum of the average effect of the genes that the relevant specimen carries.
21. "Breeding animal" shall mean any animal which has completed its physiological development and reached maturity, and is fit for breeding.
22. (Amended, SG No. 51/2007) "Herd-book" shall mean any book, register or data medium, which is kept by a breeders'

organisation recognised under Articles 29 to 29b and in which pure-bred breeding animals and registered equidae are entered in order to verify their origin, productivity and breeding value, with mention of all their known ancestors.

23. (Amended, SG No. 26/2010) "Breeding programme" shall mean any specialised programme regulating the methods for selection and determining the breeding value of individual species, breeds and lines of animals.

24. (Amended, SG No. 51/2007, SG No. 26/2010) "Farm animals" shall mean bovines, buffaloes, sheep, goats, equidae, swine, poultry, rabbits, bee families and silkworm kept and bred for the purpose of gaining a profit, as well as Karakachan dogs and Bulgarian shepherd dogs intended for agricultural purposes.

25. (Amended, SG No. 26/2010) "Certificate of origin" shall mean a document certifying the origin of animals intended for breeding, which is issued by a breeders' organisation and contains the following information: name and seal of the issuing breeders' organisation, animal entry number in the Zootechnical Register (individual number) and ID number (veterinary number) of animals, date of birth, sex, breed, mother and father of the animals specified in the certificate, farm owner and location (populated area). A certificate of origin can be issued for a single animal or for a group of animals from a herd that is included on the breeding programme.

25a. (New, SG No. 18/2004, repealed, SG No. 26/2010).

26. "Holding" shall mean any production unit for keeping animals and for manufacturing animal products.

27. (Amended, SG No. 51/2007) "Embryo transplantation" shall mean the transfer and transplantation of embryos from one female animal to another for further development.

28. (Amended, SG No. 18/2004, SG No. 51/2007) "Animal farm" shall mean any technically and economically independent economic unit having its own management and the production of which is classified as animal one.

29. "Hybrids" shall mean any crosses obtained as a result of hybridisation.

30. "Hybridisation" shall mean any cross-breeding of animals of breeds and lines created and tested for their ability to combine with one another.

31. (Amended, SG No. 51/2007) "Valuable breeds" shall mean any breeds of national significance, which have economic and genetic value.

32. (Amended, SG No. 26/2010) "Pure-bred and hybrid reproduction material intended for breeding" shall mean pure-bred animals under selection control used for reproduction and supply of rearing farms with reproduction material.

33. (Amended, SG No. 51/2007) "Pure-bred breeding animal" shall mean any controlled breeding animal which, as well as its parents and ancestors, has been entered in the herd-book of the relevant breed and meets the requirements to be entered in the herd-book.

34. (Amended, SG No. 26/2010) "Pure-bred breeding" shall mean reproduction of animals within the same breed.

35. (New, SG No. 18/2004) "Organic production" shall mean a special way of agricultural production, preserving the environment and its components by reduction and prohibition of the use of substances and procedures having negative impact on it or increasing the risk of pollution of the food chain and ensuring compliance with specially established rules and standards for the keeping of animals.

36. (New, SG No. 51/2007, amended, SG No. 26/2010) "Zootechnical book" shall mean any book, log or any other information medium used to record data related to births, insemination and movement of animals in herds that are part of breeding programmes. The zootechnical book shall be kept by the owner or an individual nominated by the owner following a template form approved by the breeders' organisation.

37. (New, SG No. 51/2007, supplemented, SG No. 26/2010) "Breeders' organisation" shall mean any organisation or society of breeders authorised to carry out its activities in pursuance of Articles 29 to 29b that also keeps the herd-book or the zootechnical register for a specific farm animal breed.

38. (New, SG No. 51/2007) "Listed equidae" shall mean any equidae already entered in one herd-book and entered in other such book according to the objectives set by the breed-improvement programme.

39. (New, SG No. 51/2007) "Genealogical grounds" shall mean any grounds proving the origin of pure-bred animals and hybrids.
40. (New, SG No. 51/2007, repealed, SG No. 26/2010).
41. (New, SG No. 51/2007) "Third country" shall mean any country that is not a member state of the European Union.
42. (New, SG No. 51/2007, repealed, SG No. 26/2010).
43. (New, SG No. 51/2007) "Independent accredited laboratory" shall mean any laboratory that is not owned by a milk-producer or milk-processor or by any person related to them within the meaning of § 1 of the Commerce Act.
44. (New, SG No. 51/2007, repealed, SG No. 26/2010).
45. (New, SG No. 26/2010) "Livestock establishment" shall mean any discrete location where farm animals are reared.
46. (New, SG No. 26/2010) "Farm" shall mean a livestock establishment where animals are reared for producing raw materials and food for marketing.
47. (New, SG No. 26/2010) "Personal subsistence farm" shall mean a livestock establishment where animals are reared for raw materials and food for personal use.
48. (New, SG No. 26/2010) "Owner of farm animals" shall mean an individual, a sole owner or a legal entity who possesses documentary evidence of animal ownership.
49. (New, SG No. 26/2010) "Owner of livestock establishment" shall mean an individual, a sole owner or a legal entity who possesses documentary evidence of title and/or timeshare on the establishment.
50. (New, SG No. 26/2010) "National Gene Bank" shall mean the national genetic resource including semen, ova, embryos, tissue cultures and carriers of genetic information from farm animal breeds stored by the Executive Agency for Selection and Reproduction in Animal Husbandry.

§ 1a. (New, SG No. 26/2010) This Act transposes the provisions of Articles 2, 4 and 8 of Council Directive 2008/73/EC of 15 July 2008 simplifying procedures of listing and publishing information in the veterinary and zootechnical fields and amending Directives 64/432/EEC, 77/504/EEC, 88/407/EEC, 88/661/EEC, 89/361/EEC, 89/556/EEC, 90/426/EEC, 90/427/EEC, 90/428/EEC, 90/429/EEC, 90/539/EEC, 91/68/EEC, 91/496/EEC, 92/35/EEC, 92/65/EEC, 92/66/EEC, 92/119/EEC, 94/28/EC, 2000/75/EC, Decision 2000/258/EC and Directives 2001/89/EC, 2002/60/EC and 2005/94/EC (OJ L 219, 14.8.2008, p. 40).

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

§ 2. Within two years of the date this Act becomes effective, any existing artificial insemination stations and embryo transfer stations shall bring their activities in compliance with the requirements laid down in this Act.

§ 3. Within six months of the date this Act becomes effective, any existing breeders' associations shall bring their activities in compliance with the requirements laid down in this Act.

§ 4. (Amended, SG No. 58/2017, effective 18.07.2017) The Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry may give animal husbandry organisations the right to use and manage, free of charge, any property remaining after the liquidation of the National Service for Selection and Reproduction in Animal Husbandry has been completed.

§ 5. This Act shall enter into force within one month of its promulgation in the State Gazette.

§ 6. (Amended, SG No. 58/2017, effective 18.07.2017) The Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry shall be entrusted with the implementation of this Act.

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

of the Amendment and Supplement Act to the Animal Husbandry Act

(SG No. 18/2004, effective 6.04.2004, supplemented, SG No. 51/2007, effective 26.06.2007)

§ 48. Within 6 months of the date this Act becomes effective, the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry shall appoint the members and issue Rules of Procedure for the Council on Animal Husbandry.

§ 49. Within three months of the date this Act becomes effective, the National Veterinary Service and the Regional Veterinary Services shall communicate to the Regional Agriculture and Forestry Directorates with the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry data from the registers of the establishments referred to in Article 55 of the Veterinary Practices Act necessary for establishing the register under Article 13 (2).

§ 50. Within one year of the date this Act becomes effective, any breeding farms, holdings and grenage establishments shall bring their activities in compliance with the requirements laid down in this Act.

§ 51. (1) For the purpose of covering the expenses for establishing of the National Dairy Board the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry shall provide resources in amount of BGN 300,000.

(2) For the purpose of covering the expenses for establishing the Regional Dairy Boards the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry shall provide resources in amount of 550,000 BGN.

(3) The provisions of Paragraphs (1) and (2) shall enter into force as of 1 January 2005.

§ 52. Within 6 months of the date this Act becomes effective, the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry shall issue the ordinances provided for in Article 14 (1), Article 15 (1), Article 15a (1), Article 23 (4), Article 38a (2), Article 38b (6), Article 38g and Article 44a (2).

§ 53. Within two years of the date this Act becomes effective, the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry shall issue the ordinances provided for in Article 38f(1).

§ 54. (1) With the entry into force of this Act, Kabiyuk PLC, Shoumen, shall be transformed into a legal entity with the statute of state enterprise under Article 62 (3) of the Commerce Act and its main objectives shall include maintaining the autochthonous and other valuable breeds of the National Animal Husbandry Gene Fund and their conservation as national wealth.

(2) The Kabiyuk state enterprise may also carry out other activities, related to its main objectives.

(3) (Supplemented, SG No. 51/2007) The property of the Kabiyuk state enterprise may not be subject to enforcement and shall be comprised of property provided to it as per type, amount and value by the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry and of property, acquired by it as a result of its activities.

(4) The Kabiyuk state enterprise may not be privatised and no bankruptcy proceedings may be opened against it.

(5) The objectives under Paragraph (1) of the Kabiyyuk state enterprise shall be supported by the government through the budget of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

(6) The Council of Ministers shall, upon proposal by the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry and the Minister of Finance, within three months of the date this Act becomes effective, adopt rehabilitation programme in respect of the Kabiyyuk state enterprise, as well as its Rules of Procedure.

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TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

of the Veterinary Practices Act

(SG No. 87/2005, effective 1.05.2006)

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§ 23. Within three months of the date this Act becomes effective, the Council of Ministers shall table before the National Assembly a Bill on Animal Protection.

§ 24. Within 6 months of the date this Act becomes effective, the Council of Ministers shall table before the National Assembly a Bill on the National Professional Association of Practicing Veterinarians and the Procedures for Practicing Veterinary Medicine.

§ 25. Any by-laws issued before the entry into force of this Act shall apply, provided they do not contradict its provisions and until they have been explicitly repealed.

§ 26. The Minister of Agriculture and Forestry shall, within one year of the date this Act becomes effective, issue the ordinances on its implementation.

(2) Within 6 months of the date of promulgation of this Act in the State Gazette, the Council of Ministers shall adopt the ordinance provided for in Article 109 and approve the tariff referred to in Article 14 (2).

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TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

of the Administrative Procedure Code

(SG No. 30/2006, effective 12.07.2006)

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§ 48. In the Animal Husbandry Act (published, SG No. 65/2000, amended, SG No. 18/2004, SG Nos. 87 and 105/2005) the wording "the Administrative Proceedings Act" shall be replaced by the wording "the Administrative Procedure Code".

(*)AMENDMENT ACT to the Commercial Register Act

(SG No. 80/2006, effective 3.10.2006)

§ 1. In § 56 of the Transitional and Final Provisions the wording "1 October 2006" shall be replaced by the wording "1 July 2007".

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TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

of the Common Organizations of Markets in Agricultural Products

of the European Union Implementing Act

(SG No. 96/2006, effective 1.01.2007)

§ 2. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry shall exercise controls on the compliance of agricultural products and foodstuffs with specific character or protected geographic indication referred to in Article 18 until any controlling persons obtain licenses in pursuance of Articles 19 and 20.

§ 3. (1) In the case of any amendment to or repealing of any Regulation referred to in this Act, the provisions of this Act shall apply according to the relevant Regulation or any amending or replacing regulations.

(2) Where regulations on the implementation of any Regulation referred to in this Act have been adopted, this Act shall apply according to the implementing regulations.

§ 4. (1) Any ordinances issued by virtue of the provisions repealed by § 8, Item 1 of § 9, and Item 2 of § 10, as well as the ordinance provided for in the provisions repealed by Item 1 of § 5, Articles 7e and 7g of the Agricultural Producers Support Act shall remain in force until the relevant ordinances provided for in this Act have been adopted.

(2) Any authorisations and licenses issued on grounds of the provisions repealed by Item 1 of § 5, § 8, and Item 1 of § 9, shall remain in force until they expire.

AMENDMENT AND SUPPLEMENT ACT to the Animal Husbandry Act

(SG No. 51/2007, effective 26.06.2007, amended, SG No. 26/2010)

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Additional Provisions

§ 62. (Amended, SG No. 26/2010) For the purpose of encouraging animal husbandry and upon proposal of the relevant animal husbandry organisation, the Minister of Agriculture and Food and the Municipal Council, for land falling within the State Land Fund and for land falling within the Municipal Land Fund, respectively, shall let or lease land for long-term use. The term for conceding the land may not be shorter than 5 years.

§ 63. This Act shall introduce the provisions of Council Directive 77/504/EEC on pure-bred breeding animals of the bovine species, Council Directive 94/28/EC laying down the principles relating to the zootechnical and genealogical conditions applicable to imports from third countries of animals, their semen, ova and embryos, and amending Directive 77/504/EEC on pure-bred breeding animals of the bovine species, Council Directive 91/174/EEC laying down zootechnical and pedigree requirements for the marketing of pure-bred animals and amending Directives 77/504/EEC and 90/425/EEC, Council Directive 88/407/EEC laying down the animal health requirements applicable to intra-Community trade in and imports of deep-frozen semen of domestic animals of the bovine species.

Transitional and Final Provisions

§ 64. Within three months of the date this Act becomes effective, the animal husbandry organisations referred to in Article 5, the National Milk Board and the Regional Milk Boards shall convene their relevant general assemblies and bring their Articles of Association in compliance with the requirements laid down in this Act.

§ 65. Within three months of the date this Act becomes effective, the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry shall appoint the members of the Council on Animal Husbandry and issue its Rules of Procedure.

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

to the Act amending and supplementing the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act

(SG No. 36/2008)

§ 82. Everywhere in the Animal Husbandry Act (promulgated, SG No. 65/2000, amended and supplemented, SG No. 18/2004, amended, SG No. 87/2005, SG No. 105/2005, SG No. 30/2006, amended and supplemented, SG No. 34/2006, amended, SG No. 96/2006, amended and supplemented, SG No. 51/2007) the words "The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry", "the minister of agriculture and forestry" and "minister of agriculture and forestry" shall be replaced by "The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Supply", "the minister of agriculture and food supply" and "minister of agriculture and food supply".

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

to the Act amending and supplementing the Forestry Act

(SG No. 43/2008)

§ 85. In the Animal Husbandry Act (promulgated, SG No. 65/2000; amended, SG No. 18/2004, No. 87 and 105/2005, No. 30, 34, 80 and 96/2006, No. 51 and 53/2007 and No. 36/2008) everywhere the words "Agriculture and forestry" shall be replaced with "Agriculture".

AMENDMENT AND SUPPLEMENT ACT

to the Animal Husbandry Act

(SG No. 26/2010)

Additional Provision

§ 60. In the remainder of this Act:

- 1. The word "association" shall be replaced by "organisation".
2. The phrase "Minister of Agriculture and Food Supply" shall be replaced by "Minister of Agriculture and Food".

§ 61. The Minister of Agriculture and Food shall issue the implementing ordinances provided for in this Act within six months of this Act's effective date.

§ 62. Breeders' organisations shall bring their operations in conformity with the provisions of this Act within six months of the Act's promulgation in the State Gazette.

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TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

to the Act amending and supplementing the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act

(SG No. 59/2012)
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§ 124. Within 6 months of the entry into force of this Act, the Minister of Agriculture and Food and the Minister of Environment and Water issued regulations implementing the Act.

CONCLUDING PROVISIONS

to the Act to Amend the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency Act

(SG No. 58/2017, effective 18.07.2017)
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§ 26. In the Animal Husbandry Act (promulgated, SG No. 65/2000, amended, SG No. 18/2004, No. 87/2005, No. 105/2005, SG No. 30/2006, No. 34/2006, No. 96/2006, No. 51 and 53/2007, No. 36 and 43 of 2008, No. 26 of 2010, No. 8 of 2011, No. 59 of 2012, No. 66 and 109 of 2013, No. 98 of 2014 and No. 61 of 2015) everywhere in the text the words "The Ministry of Agriculture and Food", "The Minister of Agriculture and Food" shall be replaced by "The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry", "The Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry", respectively.
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TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

to the Act amending the Seed Stock and Planting Stock Act

(SG No. 17/2018, effective 23.02.2018)
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§ 37. (1) Within two months of the entry of this Act into force the relevant administrative authorities, within their competencies, shall approve with orders standard forms of the documents under this Act and shall publish such standard forms on the web-sites of the respective administrations.

(2) By 31 December 2019 the relevant administrative authorities shall bring the public registers kept by the relevant administrations in line with the Electronic Government Act and the secondary statutory instruments for its implementation.
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