

# COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(81) 138 final

Brussels, 30 March 1981

Proposal for a  
COUNCIL DECISION  
on the designation and operation of a liaison laboratory  
for swine fever

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(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

COM(81) 138 final

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Council Directive 80/217/EEC of 22 January 1980 introducing Community measures for the control of classical swine fever provides, in Article 11, that liaison between national laboratories working on swine fever is to be conducted by a laboratory designated by the Community and that its powers and the conditions of its operation are to be laid down at the same time.

A basic condition for the proper application of the Directive and subsequent schemes to eradicate the disease is accuracy in laboratories' diagnostic methods for identifying swine fever, especially in its sub-clinical and chronic forms, and the use of harmonized techniques and identical reagents and procedures.

In view of the importance of coordination between the national laboratories to achieve satisfactory harmonization, the task should be allocated to a highly specialized institute and there should be provision for Community financial support to meet its expenditure in carrying out the duties conferred on it by the Community.

Proposal for a  
Council Decision

on the designation and operation of a liaison laboratory for swine fever

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Having regard to Directive 80/217/EEC of 22 January 1980 introducing Community measures for the control of classical swine fever<sup>(1)</sup> and in particular Article 11(2) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament,

Whereas the measures provided for in Directive 80/217/EEC require the harmonization of laboratory methods and procedures for diagnosing classical swine fever;

Whereas the antigens and various substances needed to make such diagnoses in national laboratories should have the same properties;

Whereas the task of liaising between the laboratories responsible in the Member States for diagnosing swine fever should be entrusted to a highly specialized laboratory with the necessary facilities for preparing and storing essential biological substances,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS :

Article 1

Liaison between the national laboratories working on swine fever shall be conducted by the laboratory of the Virology Institute of the School of Veterinary Medicine at Hanover (Federal Republic of Germany).

Article 2

The duties of the liaison laboratory designated in Article 1 shall be :

1. To co-ordinate the methods employed in the Member States for diagnosing classical swine fever, specifically by :
  - (a) storing and supplying cell cultures for use in diagnosis;

- (b) typing, storing and supplying strains of swine fever virus for serological tests and the preparation of anti-serums;
- (c) supplying standardized serums, conjugate serums and other reference reagents to the national laboratories in order to standardize the tests and reagents employed in the Member States;
- (d) building up and holding a swine fever virus collection;
- (e) organizing periodic comparative tests at Community level;
- (f) gathering data and information on the methods of diagnosis used and the results of tests carried out;

2. To make the necessary arrangements for training or re-training experts in laboratory diagnosis with a view to harmonizing diagnostic techniques.

### Article 3

Appropriations to cover the expenditure incurred by the activities set out in Article 2 shall be included in the Community Budget in the section relating to the Commission.

### Article 4

A contract shall be drawn up between the Commission and those responsible for the laboratory named in Article 1 to ensure that the activities set out in Article 2 are carried out.

### Article 5

The activities provided for in this Decision shall be restricted to a period of five years from the date of signature of the contract referred to in Article 4.

Before this period expires, the Council, acting on a proposal from the Commission by qualified majority, shall decide whether the said activities should continue or whether this Decision should be amended.

### Article 6

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council