



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 09.06.1998
COM(1998) 360 final

98/0200 (CNS)

Proposal for a

COUNCIL DECISION

amending Council Decision 95/408/EC of 22 June 1995 on the conditions for drawing up, for an interim period, provisional lists of third-country establishments from which Member States are authorised to import certain products of animal origin, fishery products and live bivalve molluscs

(presented by the Commission)

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Imports into the Community of animal products and products of animal origin from non-member countries are covered by Community rules which require lists to be drawn up of approved establishments from which imports of certain products are authorised. These rules provide for Community inspections to verify on the spot that the assurances offered by the non-member countries comply with the Community's rules. Pending these inspections and in order to prevent any disruptions in traditional trade patterns, the Council adopted Decision 95/408/EC authorising the Commission to apply simplified arrangements for approving establishments in non-member countries for which the competent authorities have given assurances of compliance with the Community rules on the protection of public and animal health. These provisional lists of approved establishments are valid until definitive lists are drawn up following on-the-spot verifications by Community inspectors. Following the adoption of Decision 97/34/EC, Decision 95/408/EC applies until 31 December 1998 unless the Council extends it on a proposal from the Commission. For various reasons relating to the organisation of inspection visits and the new procedural constraints arising from the agreements signed in the context of the World Trade Organisation, the transitional period for the simplified approval arrangements must be extended. The purpose of this proposal is to extend the application of Decision 95/408/EC until 31 December 2000.

The Council is invited to consult Parliament on this proposal.

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THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to Council Decision 95/408/EC of 22 June 1995 on the conditions for drawing up, for an interim period, provisional lists of third-country establishments from which Member States are authorised to import certain products of animal origin, fishery products and live bivalve molluscs¹, as amended by Decision 97/34/EC², and in particular Article 9 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament,

Whereas the interim period opened by Decision 95/408/EC ends on 31 December 1998; whereas, for administrative reasons, the drawing up of the lists of third-country establishments from which Member States are authorised to import certain products in accordance with the Directives on health rules applicable to those products has been delayed;

Whereas, in order to prevent any disruptions in traditional trade patterns, the interim period during which a simplified system may be applied for the approval of third-country establishments exporting certain products of animal origin, fishery products and live bivalve molluscs should be extended,

¹ OJ L 243, 11.10.1995, p. 17.

² OJ L 13, 16.1.1997, p. 33.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION :

Article 1

In Article 9 of Council Decision 95/408/EC of 22 June 1995, 31 December 1998 is replaced by 31 December 2000.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council,

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