



European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

WORKING DOCUMENTS

English Edition

1985-86

4 June 1985

SERIES A

DOCUMENT A2-56/85

REPORT

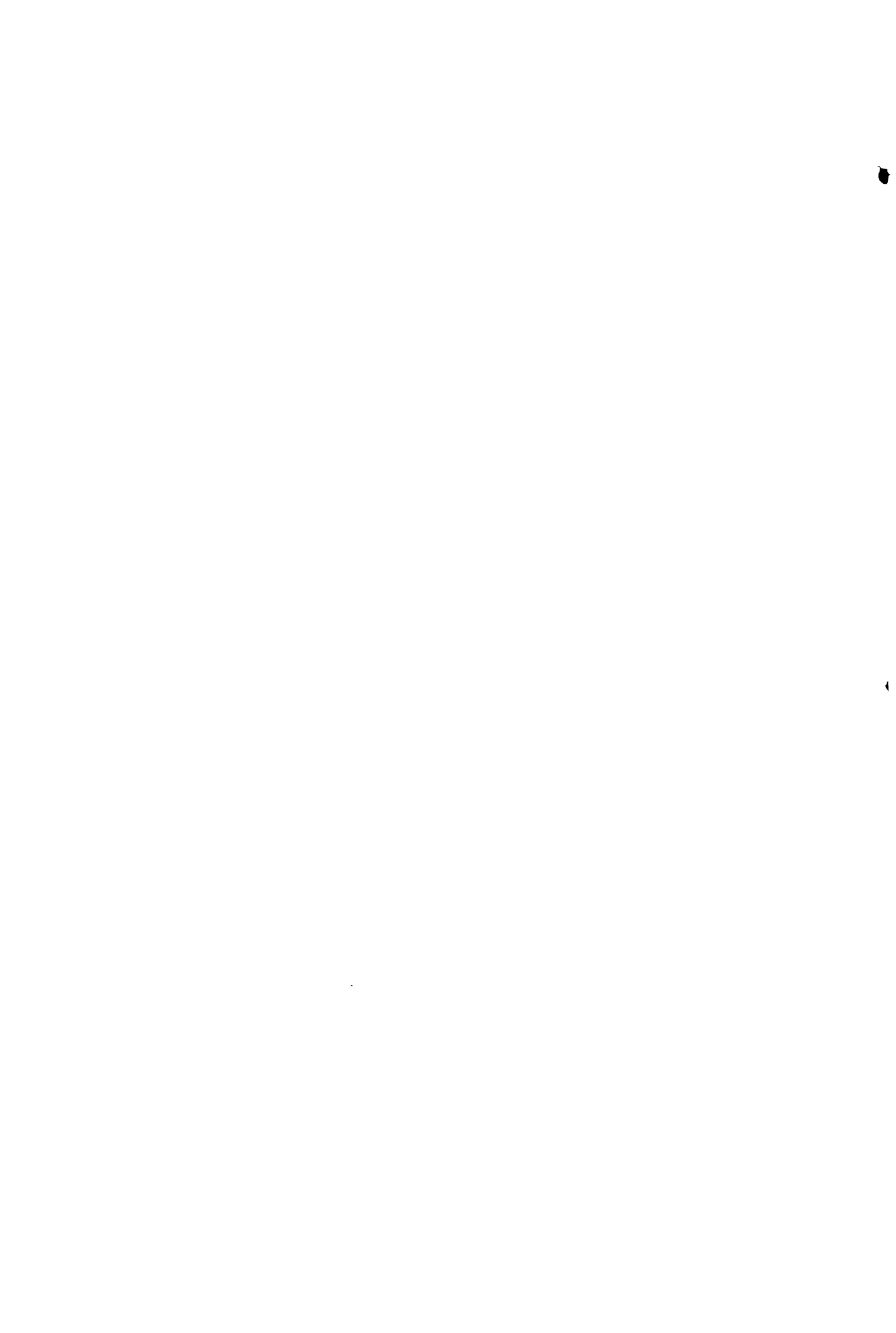
drawn up on behalf of the Committee on the Environment,
Public Health and Consumer Protection

on the proposal from the Commission of the European
Communities to the Council for a directive (COM(84) 530
final - Doc. 2-939/84) on public health and animal health
problems affecting the importation of meat products from
third countries

Rapporteur: Mrs M. LENTZ-CORNETTE

WG(2)1790E

PE 97.177/fin.
Or. Fr.



By letter of 24 October 1984 the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty, to deliver an opinion on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a directive on public health and animal health problems affecting the importation of meat products from third countries.

On 13 November 1984 the President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Committee on Budgets for their opinions.

At its meeting of 20 November 1984 the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection appointed Mrs LENTZ-CORNETTE rapporteur.

The committee considered the Commission's proposal and the draft report at its meetings of 28 February 1985, 24 April 1985 and 21 May 1985.

At the last meeting the committee decided unanimously to recommend to Parliament that it approve the Commission's proposal without amendment.

The committee then adopted the motion for a resolution as a whole unanimously.

The following took part in the vote: Mrs Weber, chairman; Mrs Schleicher, vice-chairman; Mrs Bloch von Blottnitz, vice-chairman; Mrs Lentz-Cornette, rapporteur; Mrs Banotti, Mr Iversen, Mrs Jackson, Mr Mertens, Mr Pearce, Mrs Peus (deputizing for Mr Parodi), Mr Roelants du Vivier, Mr Schmid and Mr Vittinghoff.

The opinions of the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Committee on Budgets are attached.

The report was tabled on 29 May 1985.

The deadline for tabling amendments to this report will be indicated in the draft agenda for the part-session at which it will be debated.

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The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution together with explanatory statement:

A

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

closing the procedure for consultation of the European Parliament on the proposal for a Council directive on public health and animal health problems affecting the importation of meat products from third countries

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission to the Council¹,
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community (Doc. 2-939/84),
 - having regard to Council Directive 77/99/EEC of 21 December 1976 on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in meat products²,
 - having regard to Council Directive 80/215/EEC of 22 January 1980 on animal health problems affecting intra-Community trade in meat products³,
 - having regard to Council Directive 72/462/EEC of 12 December 1972 on public health and animal health problems affecting the import of cattle and pigs and fresh meat from third countries⁴,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection and the opinions of the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Committee on Budgets (Doc. A2-56/85),
 - having regard to the result of the vote on the Commission's proposal;
- A. whereas the Community, in the first instance, has regulated intra-Community trade in meat products;
- B. whereas meat products imported from third countries should be subject to the same requirements as those laid down for the production of meat products within the Community;
- C. whereas the general conditions obtaining in third countries must meet the health standards established within the Community;

¹ OJ No. C 286, 25.10.1984, p. 5

² OJ No. L 26, 31.1.1977, p. 85

³ OJ No. L 47, 21.2.1980, p. 4

⁴ OJ No. L 302, 31.12.1972, p. 28

1. Approves this proposal for a directive which aims to protect public health and guarantee the quality of consumer products in the Member States of the Community;
2. Considers nevertheless that there is a need for a regulation on products such as meat meals, blood plasma, dried blood, melted fats, dried intestines and offal, particularly liver;
3. Calls on the Commission therefore to submit suitable proposals in this connection;
4. Recommends that the Commission present proposals on the import of game and poultrymeat from third countries;
5. Considers that the effectiveness of the envisaged rules depends on the simultaneous implementation of the directive in all the Member States of the Community;
6. Expresses the hope that the Council will adopt the present proposal for a directive at the earliest opportunity;
7. Instructs its President to forward to the Council and the Commission, as Parliament's opinion, the text of the Commission's proposal in the version resulting from the vote taken by Parliament, together with the relevant resolution.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENTI. INTRODUCTION

1. Out of a concern to protect public health and guarantee the quality of consumer products in the Member States, the Community regulated, in the first instance, intra-Community trade in animals, fresh meats and meat products. The Commission then undertook to draw up proposals aimed at ensuring that meat products imported from third countries do not endanger health and that the fresh meat used for this production is subject to the same requirements as those laid down for the production of meat products within the Community. This implies that the general conditions obtaining in third countries should meet the health requirements established within the Community.

2. According to the present proposal for a directive, the health controls needed are twofold: hygiene control in authorized establishments, certification and physical inspection of the product on arrival in Community territory. Any Member State must be able to prohibit immediately imports in cases where a contagious disease breaks out or spreads and must inform other Member States without delay.

3. It is obvious that the effectiveness of the envisaged rules depends on the simultaneous implementation of the directive in all the Member States so that a meat product cannot circulate from one country to another.

4. Fresh meats used for the manufacture of meat products (in accordance with Directive 72/462/EEC¹) must come from animals that have been on the territory or part of the territory of a third country during the three months preceding their slaughter or since their birth in cases of animals less than three months old. In this connection, the committee wonders what rule would be applied with regard to fresh meats coming, possibly, from a third country which does not meet the health requirements other than that in which this raw material is processed into a meat product then exported to the Community. Furthermore, what would be done to deal with the problem of products that contain other food products whose percentage of meat or meat products is minimal since, on this question, Directive 77/99/EEC² provides for the possibility of derogations from certain of these provisions at the level of intra-Community trade. It should also be pointed out that there is no regulation for products such as meat meals, blood plasma, dried blood, melted fats, dried intestines and offal, particularly liver.

II. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE PROPOSAL FOR A DIRECTIVE

5. Having regard to the general health conditions of third countries or parts of these countries, this proposal lays down the health and animal health conditions to be applied to the import of meat products, with the exception of poultrymeat. Products imported by private persons or on an individual basis are not taken into consideration.

¹ Council Directive 72/462/EEC of 12 December 1972 on health and animal health problems affecting the import of cattle and pigs and fresh meat from third countries, OJ No. L 302, 31.12.1972

² Council Directive 77/99/EEC of 21 December 1976 on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in meat products - OJ No. L 26, 31.1.1977

6. The import of meat products is entrusted to establishments in third countries or a part of third countries complying with the relevant requirements laid down in Annex A to Directive 77/99/EEC and appearing on a list drawn up by the Commission. This list is published in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

Animal health conditions

7. According to the proposal, the import of meat products from third countries will be authorized in cases where health problems connected with fresh meat are subject to the same requirements as those governing intra-Community trade (Directive 72/462/EEC). The third country engaging in export must have been free of contagious diseases for twelve months and no vaccinations should have been administered during this period. But provision is made for a derogation to this rule for parts of the territory of a third country; furthermore, for these parts of the territory, the deadline may vary with regard to the most recent vaccinations against one or more contagious diseases. Other Member States of the Community must be notified in any cases where it is established that there is a risk of contagious diseases that can be transmitted by meat products.

Public health conditions

8. Fresh meat, meat products and meat products used for the production of other meat products may be handled only in establishments satisfying the requirements of Directive 72/462/EEC. An official Community veterinarian must carry out an on-the-spot inspection on the hygiene and treatments practised in the authorized establishments appearing on the official list. Furthermore, an official veterinarian of the third country must carry out constant supervision. The date by which the product should be consumed must be marked clearly on meat products that have undergone incomplete processing; transport conditions must also be stipulated. It would not be permissible for products to be subjected to ionizing radiation.

9. The inspection of meat products by veterinary experts from the Member States and the Commission must be carried out on the spot and at the point of arrival in Community territory. In the case of anomalies or risks of contagious disease, the Commission must inform the Member States and immediately decide to suspend provisionally authorization for import. A final decision shall be taken after consulting the Standing Veterinary Committee which shall deliver its opinion within two days. If the measures are not in accordance with the opinion of the committee or if no opinion is delivered, the Commission shall propose to the Council the measures to be taken within fifteen days. The import of meat products would be authorized on submission of an original copy of an animal health certificate and a public health certificate drawn up in the official language of the country of destination and in the language of the country where the import controls are carried out. Documentary inspection would be carried out upon the arrival of meat products in the geographical territory of the Community.

10. The transport of meat products from one third country to another third country in transit through Community territory must be carried out without unloading and subject to the guarantee that the third country of destination does not reject or send back the products to the Community. Meat products not satisfying the required hygiene conditions must be turned back or even destroyed on the territory of the Member State where the control is carried out. By way of derogation, the Member State carrying out the health inspection may authorize the entry of meat products for uses other than human consumption provided that there is no danger for humans or animals. The official veterinarian may be aided by assistants specially trained for this purpose at the approved inspection posts. Finally, meat products authorized for circulation after inspection must be covered by a certificate corresponding to the specimen given in Annex B of the present proposal for a directive.

II. CONCLUSIONS

11. The present proposal for a directive is satisfactory insofar as the provisions are subject to the same requirements as those laid down for the production of meat products within the Community.

12. This proposal for a directive has been formulated with a view to protecting, on the one hand, public health in the Member States of the Community and, on the other hand, the health of livestock from the risk of contagious exotic animal diseases.

13. The health inspection, which must be carried out by an official veterinarian of the third country engaging in export and by the Community's veterinary experts, and the physical inspection, which must be carried out at the point of entry into the territory of the Member State importing the product, can guarantee the safety of meat products imported from third countries.

14. The effectiveness of the envisaged rules depends on the simultaneous implementation of the directive in question in all the Member States of the Community.

Tables 1, 2 and 3 provide an overview of Community imports and exports of beef and meat products.

EUR 10¹ IMPORTS OF MEAT PRODUCTS,
PREPARED OR PRESERVED,² FROM THIRD COUNTRIES

	VALUE ('000 ECU)	QUANTITY (TONNES)
1977	264,969	153,455
1978	264,186	165,577
1979	280,161	145,808
1980	309,527	139,738
1981	397,688	144,348
1982	384,342	139,634
1983	399,660	141,535

¹ Before 1981, EUR 9

² SITC 104

Source: EUROSTAT, SIENA

EUR 10¹ EXPORTS OF MEAT PRODUCTS,
PREPARED OR PRESERVED,² FROM THIRD COUNTRIES

	VALUE ('000 ECU)	QUANTITY (TONNES)
1977	375,833	167,296
1978	328,403	144,332
1979	338,283	172,214
1980	309,598	155,722
1981	382,725	165,402
1982	510,382	187,487
1983	551,239	205,675

¹ Before 1981, EUR 9

² SITC 014

Source: EUROSTAT, SIENA

1984 (JANUARY - AUGUST)
BEEF AND VEAL
TRADE WITH THIRD COUNTRIES

EXPORTS							
COUNTRY	Live animals	Fresh meat		Frozen meat	Salted, dried, smoked meat	Prepared and canned meat	TOTAL
		Veal	Beef				
- France	7 625	2 744	14 192	103 534	301	5 573	133 966
- BLEU	278	216	9 366	7 358	0	370	17 588
- Netherlands	2 418	1 840	25 028	20 447	4	4 576	54 313
- FRG	18 874	32	35 725	90 158	4	1 387	146 180
- Italy	4 510	108	9 405	31 779	224	806	46 832
- United Kingdom ..	305	1	26 062	12 716	4	1 661	40 749
- Ireland	31 022	42	9 053	55 376	0	251	95 744
- Denmark	1 176	14	724	27 672	55	16 466	46 107
- Greece	41	0	0	0	0	0	41
- EUR 10	66 249	4 994	129 555	349 040	592	31 090	581 520

IMPORTS								
COUNTRY	Live animals	Fresh meat		Frozen meat	Salted, dried, smoked meat	Prepared and canned meat	TOTAL	BALANCE EXPORT --- IMPORT
		Veal	Beef					
- France	211	10	15	5 012	345	376	5 969	+ 127 997
- BLEU	390	58	304	2 964	18	716	4 450	+ 13 130
- Netherlands	17	0	141	6 106	44	3 897	10 205	+ 44 108
- FRG	5 516	41	13 377	23 293	107	21 093	63 427	+ 82 753
- Italy	24 973	616	27 740	15 317	0	8 330	76 976	- 30 144
- United Kingdom	97	0	3 618	29 303	4	63 393	96 415	- 55 666
- Ireland	8	0	0	0	0	0	11	+ 5 733
- Denmark	1	0	0	395	0	9	405	+ 45 702
- Greece	2 136	432	776	1 192	0	0	4 536	- 4 495
- EUR 10	33 349	1 157	45 971	83 582	518	97 817	262 394	+ 319 126

Source: NIMEXE - SIENA - Coefficients: Live : carcass weight = live weight x 0.50 : Boned meat = product weight x 1.3 = carcass weight

(AGRA EUROPE, No. 1330, 7.12.1984)

OPINION

OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD

Letter from Mr TOLMAN, chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, to Mrs WEBER, chairman of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection

Brussels, 17 December 1984

Subject: Proposal for a Council directive on public health and animal health problems affecting the importation of meat products from third countries (COM(84) 530 final)

Dear Mrs Weber,

At its meeting of 17 December 1984, the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food¹ considered the proposal for a Council directive on public health and animal health problems affecting the importation of meat products from third countries (COM(84) 530 final).

The importation of meat products from third countries involves health risks, if exotic animal diseases break out in those countries. The purpose of the proposal for a directive is to prevent these risks by laying down, to cover such cases, specific requirements which go further than the existing health safeguards in respect of the importation of meat from third countries and afford the Community far-reaching protection against the introduction of exotic animal diseases. The exporting countries' compliance with those requirements is to be verified on the spot by Community experts.

Nonetheless, the Member States and/or the Commission remain free to impose an immediate ban on imports of meat products if an animal disease liable to endanger human or animal health in the Community breaks out or spreads in the third country in question. In such cases, the proposal aims to ensure that all Member States adopt a common position vis-à-vis the third country in question.

The proposal for a directive reinforces the Community's protection against health risks resulting from exotic animal diseases. The Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food therefore approves this proposal for a directive.

The committee is also of the opinion that this proposal for a directive falls within its field of competence.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd) Teun TOLMAN

¹ Present: Mr Tolman, chairman; Mr Eyraud, Mr Graefe zu Baringdorf and Mr Mouchel, vice-chairmen; Mr Bocklet, Miss Brookes (deputizing for Mr Simmonds), Mr Clinton, Mr Früh, Mr Gatti, Mr Guarraci, Mr Herman (deputizing for Mr Debatisse), Mr MacSharry, Mr Maffre-Baugé, Mr Marck, Mr Mertens, Mr Morris, Mr Pranchère, Mr Raftery (deputizing for Mr Borgo), Mr Romeos, Mrs Rothe, Mr Sutra and Mr Thareau

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS

Letter from the vice-chairman of the committee to Mrs WEBER, chairman of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection

Subject: Proposal for a directive on public health and animal health problems affecting the importation of meat products from third countries (COM(84) 530 final - Doc. 2-939/84)

Brussels, 23 November 1984

Dear Mrs Weber,

The Committee on Budgets discussed the above proposal from the Commission at its meeting of 21/22 November 1984.

The committee indicated its approval of the measure, but underlined that it is during the annual budget procedure than not only are appropriations set but also the provision of additional staff decided. The requirement for three extra A7 posts has to be seen in that light, not least because the Commission itself stresses its independence in allocating additional staff granted during the budget procedure.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd) R. RYAN
first vice-chairman

Present: Mr Ryan, first vice-chairman; Mr Curry, second vice-chairman; Mrs Boserup, Mr Bardong, Mr Di Bartolomei, Lord Douro, Mr J. Elles, Mr Gatti (deputizing for Mr Spinelli), Mrs Hoff, Mr Langes, Mr Romeos (deputizing for Mr Varfis), Mr Tortora (deputizing for Mr Ciccimessere), Mr De Vries (deputizing for Mr Louwes), Mr Von der Vring and Mr Wettig (deputizing for Mr Rigo).