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REPORT

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

on the proposals from the Commission of the European
Communities for

- A. a Council regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC)
No. 1943/81 on a common measure to improve the
processing and marketing conditions in the cattlefeed
sector in Northern Ireland (COM(85) 234 final -
Doc. C2-45/85);
- B. a Council regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC)
No. 1938/81 on a common measure to improve public
amenities in certain less-favoured agricultural areas
of the Federal Republic of Germany (COM(85) 236 final
- Doc. C2-46/85);
- C. a Council regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC)
No. 1054/81 establishing a common measure for the
development of beef cattle production in Ireland and
Northern Ireland (COM(85) 238 final - Doc. C2-47/85).

Rapporteur : Mr T. TOLMAN

WG(2)2083E

PE 98.568/fin.
Or. It.

By letter of 14 June 1985, 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 proposals from the Commission of the European Community to the Council for

- a regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No. 1943/81 on a common measure to improve the processing and marketing conditions in the cattlefeed sector in Northern Ireland;
- a regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No. 1938/81 on a common measure to improve public amenities in certain less-favoured agricultural areas of the Federal Republic of Germany;
- a regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No. 1054/81 establishing a common measure for the development of beef cattle production in Ireland and Northern Ireland.

The President of the European Parliament referred these proposals to the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Budgets for an opinion.

At the meeting of 18/19 June 1985, the committee decided to follow the simplified procedure laid down in Rule 99(2) of the Rules of Procedure, thus appointing its chairman as rapporteur.

Since no objections were submitted before 2 July 1985, the chairman considered the report as having been adopted.

The report was tabled on 3 July 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.

C O N T E N T S

Page

A. Motion for a resolution 5

B. Explanatory statement 6

Opinion of the Committee on Budgets 8

The Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food 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 proposals from the Commission of the European Community to the Council for

- A. a regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No. 1943/81 on a common measure to improve the processing and marketing conditions in the cattlefeed sector in Northern Ireland;
- B. a regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No. 1938/81 on a common measure to improve public amenities in certain less-favoured agricultural areas of the Federal Republic of Germany;
- C. a regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No. 1054/81 establishing a common measure for the development of beef cattle production in Ireland and Northern Ireland.

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposals from the Commission to the Council¹,
 - having being consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. C2-45/85; Doc. C2-46/85; Doc. C2-47/85),)
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (Doc. A 2-76/85)
 - having regard to the result of the vote on the Commission's proposals
1. Approves the Commission's proposals;
 2. Instructs its President to forward to the Council and Commission, as Parliament's opinion, the Commission's proposals as voted by Parliament and the corresponding resolution.

¹ OJ No. C 149, 19.6.1985, p. 5

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT1. Cattlefeed in Northern Ireland (COM(85) 234 final)

- 1.1 Regulation No. 1943/81¹ established a common measure to improve the processing and marketing conditions in the cattlefeed sector in Northern Ireland. It consisted in granting aid from the EAGGF Guidance Section, in the form of capital grants up to a maximum of 50% of the eligible investment cost, to finance the modernization and rationalization of firms involved in the processing and marketing of cattlefeed.
- 1.2 The measure was to extend over a period of 4 years at an estimated cost of 6 million ECU. This appropriation has now been used up, whilst a number of projects have already been drawn up or are being drawn up. The Council of Ministers acknowledged the need to extend the period of validity of the measure and called upon the Commission to submit a proposal to that end. The aim of the current proposal is to extend the measure by another 3 years, to 31 December 1987, and to increase the appropriations by 4.5 million ECU, making a total of 10.5 million ECU.

2. Less-favoured agricultural areas in Germany (COM(85) 236 final)

- 2.1 Council Regulation 1938/81¹ established a common measure to accelerate the improvement of infrastructure in less-favoured agricultural areas in Germany. The regulation made provision for Community financing, in the form of capital subsidies, equivalent to 30% of the investment involved in water engineering measures and the construction and improvement of farm and local roads. The measure was to cover a period of 5 years and expenditure was estimated at 45 million ECU.
- 2.2 Article 14 of the regulation states that applications for aid, which it has not been possible to grant for lack of available funds, may be carried forward to the following financial year. However, every application for aid may be carried forward once only.
- 2.3 The purpose of the current proposal is to amend Article 14 so that from 1985 onwards applications may be carried forward a second time. Thus no provision is made for altering the total period of validity of the measure nor the total appropriation.

3. Beef cattle production in Ireland and Northern Ireland (COM(85) 238 final)

- 3.1 Regulation No. 1054/81² provided for a series of structural aid measures to improve beef cattle production. They included aid for the selection of stock bulls, encouraging greater use of artificial insemination, the improvement of pastures and meadows through increased use of lime and the improvement of winter feed supplies.

¹ OJ No. L 197, 20.7.1981

² OJ No. L 111, 23.4.1981

3.2 The duration of the common measure was limited to a period of two years from the date of the approval of the various programmes, i.e. until 30 April 1984, up to 50% of expenditure being reimbursed by the EAGGF Guidance Section at an estimated total cost of 27.5 million ECU. This amount was then increased to 37.5 million ECU by Regulation 2967/83¹.

3.3 The Council has already acknowledged the need to extend until 31 March 1986 one of the measures laid down for the Republic of Ireland, namely that concerning the intensification of progeny testing of beef bulls in order to make a final selection of bulls of acceptable genetic merit for use in up-grading the quality of beef cattle production. The Commission feels that such testing is not yet adequate to ensure the animals' genetic improvement. The Commission has now submitted this proposal, which entails no extra expenditure.

Conclusion

The Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food approves the various structural measures proposed by the Commission. The proposals are aimed at supplementing or extending existing measures, in order to ensure that they are completely successful.

The European Parliament has always approved of effective measures to assist the less-favoured agricultural areas in the Community.

The only cause for regret is that the Commission should have delayed submitting these proposals: the Council pointed out the urgent need for such measures as early as March this year, whilst the Commission's proposals are dated 23 May 1985.

¹ OJ No. L 293, 25.10.1983

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS

Letter from Mr COT, chairman of the Committee on Budgets, to Mr TOLMAN, chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Subject: Opinion of the Committee on Budgets on the proposals for Council regulations

- amending Regulation (EEC) No. 1943/81 on a common measure to improve the processing and marketing conditions in the cattlefeed sector in Northern Ireland (COM(85) 234 - Doc. C 2-45/85)
- amending Regulation (EEC) No. 1938/81 on a common measure to improve public amenities in certain less-favoured agricultural areas of the Federal Republic of Germany (COM(85) 236 - Doc. C 2-46/85)
- amending Regulation (EEC) No. 1054/81 establishing common measures for the development of beef cattle production in Ireland and Northern Ireland (COM(85) 238 - Doc. C 2-47/85)

Dear Mr Chairman,

The Committee on Budgets considered the above proposals at its meeting of 19 June 1985.

I am pleased to inform you that the Committee on Budgets has approved these proposals.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd) Jean-Pierre COT

The following took part in the vote: Mr COT, chairman; Sir James SCOTT-HOPKINS, vice-chairman; Mr ARNDT, Mr CHRISTODOULOU, The Hon. J. ELLES, Mr EYRAUD (deputizing for Mrs FUILLET), Mr FICH, Mr FRÜH (deputizing for Mr LANGES), Mr NORMANTON, Mr d'ORMESSON, Mr PASTY, Mr POETSCHKI (deputizing for Mr RYAN), Mr PFENNIG, Mr ROELANTS DU VIVIER (deputizing for Mr BONDE), Mr SCHÖN, Mr TOMLINSON and Mr VON DER VRING.