

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(80) 615 final

Brussels, 17th October 1980

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL

COORDINATION OF MEMBER STATES' POSITIONS WITH REGARD
TO THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION
OF ANIMALS KEPT FOR FARMING PURPOSES

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

The European Convention for the protection of animals kept for farming purposes, concluded under the auspices of the Council of Europe, was approved by the Council on behalf of the European Economic Community (Decision 78/923/EEC)⁽¹⁾.

Article 8 of the Convention provides for the setting-up of a Standing Committee to be responsible for drawing up detailed rules for the implementation of the Convention.

Since the instruments of accession have not been deposited, the Community is not yet a Contracting Party to the Convention, only an observer without the right to vote. However, five Member States (Germany, Belgium, France, Luxembourg and the United Kingdom) are already in a position to vote in the Standing Committee, in which, moreover, they represent the majority of the votes.

Consequently, it is important to coordinate the positions of the Member States before the next meeting of the Standing Committee, especially as it will be concerned with detailed rules in respect of laying hens.

At the Council's request, the Commission has been studying the welfare of battery-kept laying hens with a view to drafting a report and proposals.

For this reason, while keeping in touch with the work of the Committee, it is important to retain Community competence and to avoid Member States adopting divergent positions or anticipating the outcome of the work in hand.

(1) O.J. No L 323, of 17.11.1978, p. 12.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL

Subject : Coordination of Member States' positions with regard to the European Convention for the protection of animals kept for farming purposes.

A. By Decision 78/923/EEC of 19 June 1978⁽¹⁾, the Council approved the European Convention for the protection of animals kept for farming purposes on behalf of the European Economic Community, since the Convention already contains a number of provisions allowing the Community to become a Contracting Party.

Article 8 of the Convention provides for the setting-up of a Standing Committee responsible for elaborating and adopting recommendation to the Contracting Parties for the detailed implementation of the Convention. The Standing Committee has now been set up. The members with voting rights are Belgium, France, Germany, Cyprus, Sweden, Luxembourg and the United Kingdom, while the other members of the Council of Europe and the E.E.C. hold observer status.

The agenda for the meeting on 21 October 1980 includes the drafting of detailed rules in respect of laying hens, on the basis of a draft recommendation which has been circulated to the Contracting Parties and observers.

On the basis of the Decision adopted by the Council on 18 September 1979 and the Council Resolution of 22 July 1980, the Commission has undertaken work in connection with the welfare of battery-kept laying hens with a view to drafting a report and proposals to be submitted to the Council before 1 July 1981. It is therefore important to reserve the Community's position until those proposals have been transmitted, as was decided at previous meetings of the Standing Committee (27-30 November 1979 and 6-9 May 1980) and the adoption of appropriate rules foreseen for the 1 November 1981.

B. Consequently, the Commission proposes :

- that the Council agree that the Member States reserve their final positions as regards the drafting of detailed rules, scheduled for the next meeting of the Standing Committee, and, in particular, refrain from adopting positions during discussions of the draft recommendation, and in particular refrain during the discussion of the draft recommendation from taking positions prejudging the outcome of the Community work and that, furthermore, the Member States act in a manner ensuring that the Standing Committee adopt no recommendation before November 1981;
- that coordination take place on the spot, if necessary.

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