COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Proposal for a

COUNCIL DECISION

on a financial contribution from the Community to
the campaign against foot-and-mouth disease in
South-East Europe

(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

I. The Director-General of the FAO has submitted a request to President Thorn for a financial contribution by the EEC to the continuance of the measures undertaken by his organization against exotic viruses of foot and mouth disease in the countries of South-East Europe.

This request is for the sum of USD 870,000 (about 889,200 EUA), primarily to purchase vaccines to maintain the buffer zone created some 20 years ago to prevent the spread of exotic foot and mouth viruses to other European countries and, consequently, to Community territory. This buffer zone covers areas on the border between Turkey and Greece, on the one hand, and between Turkey and Bulgaria, on the other.

The FAO has also appealed to non-EEC European countries for funds.

II. In assessing the advisability of this contribution to the FAO, account should be taken in particular of the following :

1. Experience in recent years has shown that the Middle East and the countries of South-East Europe are specially
vulnerable to foot and mouth disease caused by exotic viruses. In 1962 there was an epizootic disease caused by SAT_I in Turkey and in 1964-65 an epizootic caused by A_{22} virus in Turkey reached the Greek border. In 1972 Turkish Thrace and in particular Greece were effected by a second outbreak caused by A_{22} virus and in 1973 Turkey was also affected by an epizootic caused by $Asia_1$ virus.

To create a barrier to the spread of these exotic viruses into Europe, in 1962 the FAO, with financial assistance from the EEC and other European countries, created a buffer zone along the Greek-Turkish and Bulgarian-Turkish borders within which all animals susceptible to foot and mouth disease were vaccinated systematically with vaccines effective against the foot and mouth viruses threatening Europe.

The action taken by the FAO was a decisive factor in preventing the spread of the various ep--ootics of foot and mouth disease into Europe.

2. The situation is now as follows : A_{22} virus, which is exotic for the EEC, continues to exist in Anatolia, as does an O virus with different antigenic properties from the classic O types traditionally used in the preparation of European vaccines. The presence of $Asia_1$ virus in the Middel East also contributes a supplementary threat to South-East Europe, and, consequently, to Europe as a whole. Moreover, Turkey is still not in a position to produce the foot and mouth vaccine necessary to meet national requirements. Thus, the buffer zone can only be maintained with financial aid from European countries.

3. Community livestock is not vaccinated against exotic foot and mouth viruses. The Community is therefore very vulnerable to penetration by these viruses, which could spread very rapidly and cause serious losses.

III. According to information supplied by the FAO, a favourable reply to its request for funds would, given the current situation as regards foot and mouth disease in the Middle East, enable vaccination campaigns to be continued within the buffer zone until 1984, as recommended by the European Commission for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease and would enable any emergency actions which may become necessary in South-East Europe. The maintainance of the buffer zone beyond 1984 and the question of international support for vaccination campaigns will be examined in due course, in the light, in particular, of the epizootical situation as regards foot and mouth disease then obtaining in South-East Europe and the Middle East.

The current FAO programme provides for the annual supply of some 750,000 doses of bivalent A_{22}/O vaccine to maintain the buffer zone.

It should be noted that the composition of the foot and mouth vaccines to be used in the buffer zone and its extension could be changed at any time in particular in line with the epizootiological situation and the type of foot and mouth viruses threatening Europe.

IV. As was the case during previous operations, the correct use of the sums granted could be verified by an EEC representative at the level of an FAO/ IOE/EEC advisory group.

V. The granting of the contribution to the FAO for the purchase of vaccine intended for Bulgaria and Turkey (about $812,000) requires prior approval by Council decision; on the other hand, the financing of the vaccine intended for Greece (about $58,000) may be charged to the "Emergency Veterinary Fund" as agreed at the negotiations for Greek accession to the EEC, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 2 of Council Decision 77/97/EEC of 21.12.1976 (OJ L 26 of 31 January 1977) (application by Greece - Standing Veterinary Committee procedure ....).

on a financial contribution from the Community to the campaign against foot and
mouth disease in south-east Europe

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and
in particular Article 43 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament,

Whereas there have been outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease caused by viruses
foreign to the Community in recent years in certain regions of south-east Europe;
whereas the danger to Community livestock from such exotic foot-and-mouth viruses
has not yet been removed; whereas, consequently, aid should continue to be
granted to the non-member countries concerned to enable them to apply measures
designed to prevent the spread of these viruses, in particular by the creation
of buffer zones in these regions,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS :

Article 1

The Community contributes financially to the programme to fight exotic foot and
mouth disease in the South Eastern Countries of Europe. The Commission has under-
taken to aid financially the joint FAO programme within the budgetary exercise
of 1982 and 1982.

Article 2

The Commission shall be responsible for supervising the manner in which the sum
provided for in Article 1 is used. It shall report to the Council and the European
Parliament on the implementation of this Decision.

Done at Brussels,   For the Council

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

1. BUDGET HEADING : B 3803

APPROBIATIONS : p.m. in line
500.000 ECU at chapter 100

2. TITLE : Proposal for a Council Decision on a financial contribution from the Community to the campaign against foot and mouth disease in south-east Europe

3. LEGAL BASIS : Article 43

4. AIMS OF PROJECT : The aim of the action is to ensure until 1984 the maintenance of buffer zones against foot and mouth disease in south-east Europe and thereby to avoid the spread of exotic foot and mouth virus into the E.E.C.. The financial contribution of the EEC is essentially designed to purchase foot and mouth disease vaccine to be used in the buffer zones.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	PERIOD OF PROGRAMME	CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR (82)	FOLLOWING FINANCIAL YEAR (83)
5.0 EXPENDITURE			
– CHARGED TO THE EC BUDGET (REFUNDS/INTERVENTIONS)	830.000 ECU	500.000 ECU	330.000 ECU
– NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION	–	–	–
– OTHER	–	–	–
5.1 RECEIPTS			
– OWN RESOURCES OF THE EC (LEVIES/CUSTOMS DUTIES)	–	–	–
– NATIONAL	–	–	–

5.0.1 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE	–	–	–	–
5.1.1 ESTIMATED RECEIPTS	–	–	–	–

5.2 METHOD OF CALCULATION

FAO has based its demand on the costs for bying foot- and mouth disease vaccine (0.58 US dollars per dosis bivalent).

6.0 CAN THE PROJECT BE FINANCED FROM APPROBIATIONS ENTERED IN THE RELEVANT CHAPTER OF THE CURRENT BUDGET ?

YES/NO

6.1 CAN THE PROJECT BE FINANCED BY TRANSFER BETWEEN CHAPTERS OF THE CURRENT BUDGET ?

YES/NO (1)

XXXX XX XX XX XX XX XX XX XX XX XX XX XX XX XX XX X

YES/NO X

6.3 WILL FUTURE BUDGET APPROBIATIONS BE NECESSARY ?

YES/NO

OBSERVATIONS :

(1) Transfer from chapter 100.