

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(79) 27 final.

Brussels, 1 February 1978

PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL DECISION

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

(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

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EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

I. The Director General of the FAO has submitted a request to President Jenkins 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 a sum of 900 000 U.S. dollars (about 700 000 EUA) primarily to purchase vaccines to maintain the buffer zone created 15 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 Turkey and Bulgaria on the other.

The FAO has also appealed to other European non-EEC 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, in particular Turkey and Greece, are particularly vulnerable to foot-and-mouth disease caused by exotic viruses. In 1962 there was an epizootic disease caused by SAT₁ virus in Turkey and in 1964-65 an epizootic caused by A₂₂ virus in Turkey reached the Greek border. In 1972 Turkish Thrace and in particular Greece were affected by a second outbreak caused by A₂₂ virus and in 1973 Turkey was also affected by an epizootic caused by Asia₁ virus.

To create a barrier to the spread of these exotic viruses into Europe, in 1962 the FAO, with the financial aid of the EEC and other European countries, created a buffer zone along the Greek-Turkish and Bulgarian-Turkish borders in 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 spreading of the various epizootics of foot-and-mouth disease into Europe.

2. At present the situation is the following : A₂₂ virus, which is exotic for the EEC, continues to exist in Anatolia; furthermore a new problem has arisen with the appearance in the Middle East of sub-types or variants of the O virus which are immunologically different from the O₁ Europe virus. Moreover, Turkey is still not in a position to produce the foot-and-mouth disease vaccine necessary to meet national requirements; according to information supplied by the Turkish authorities, the new Foot-and-Mouth Disease Institute in Ankara will not be operational before 1983; 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 the information supplied by the FAO a favourable reply to its request for funds would, on the basis of the current situation as regards foot-and-mouth disease in the Middle East, enable vaccination campaigns to continue in the buffer zone for a period of four years. The current programme provides for the annual supply of 700 000 to 800 000 doses of bivalent A₂₂/O vaccines to maintain this zone.

It should be noted that the composition of the foot-and-mouth vaccines to be used in the buffer zone could change at any moment in line with the epizootological 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 controlled by an EEC representative at the level of an FAO/IOE/EEC advisory committee.

V. Since the enclosed draft Decision is based on Article 43 of the Treaty the European Parliament must be consulted.

VI. If the Council's decision is favourable the necessary appropriations will be divided into two instalments. The first, to be paid in 1979, will be released by transfer and the second will go into the preliminary draft budget for 1980.

PROPOSAL FOR A
COUNCIL DECISION

on a financial contribution 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 exotic foot-and-mouth viruses has not 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 envisaged assistance by the Community in the campaign undertaken in the countries of South-East Europe against exotic foot-and-mouth viruses is estimated at 700 000 EUA.

Article 2

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

Done at Brussels,

For the Council
The President

BUDGET STATEMENT

1. Budget heading :

Article 310

Item 3103

2. Title of heading

Community contribution to anti-foot-and-mouth disease measures outside the Community.

3. Legal basis

Council Decision

4. Nature and objective of action, and justification therefor.

Purchase of anti-foot-and-mouth vaccine to be used in buffer zones on the Greco-Turko-Bulgarian frontiers to create a barrier to the passage of exotic foot-and-mouth viruses into Europe. These viruses are particularly dangerous to the Community's livestock, which is not immunized against them. Exotic viruses often appear in the Near East and it is indispensable to maintain these buffer zones.

Other European countries besides those of the EEC are contributing to the operation, which is expected to last for four years if the foot-and-mouth situation in the Near East remains as it is at this moment.

700 000 - 800 000 doses of bivalent vaccine are required per year to maintain the buffer zones.

The operation is being undertaken on the initiative of the FAO, which has asked the EEC and other European countries for funds. The sum requested per head of cattle is 1.2 American cents.

5. Cost of action in US dollars

The 700 000 EUA can be split into two instalments. The first, 300 000 EUA, to be paid in the first quarter of 1979, would be released by transfer and the second instalment would go into the preliminary draft budget for 1980.

Financial breakdown

Purchase of vaccine each year :

700 000 - 800 000 doses of bivalent vaccine x 0.40 US cents =
+ 300 000 US dollars per year.

The programme is expected to run for 4 years.

Part of the total, i.e. 300 000 dollars, would be paid by European countries which are not members of the EEC, thus leaving 900 000 dollars (700 000 EUA) to be provided by the EEC.

6. Supervision

The use of the money will be supervised by an EEC representative on an FAO/IOE/EEC Advisory Committee.

7. With regard to the 1979 budget, it is necessary to transfer an appropriation of 300 000 E.U.A. to heading 3103 from other headings in Chapter 31 or from other Chapters of the General Budget.

