

# COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(78) 368 final

Brussels, 19 July 1978

Proposal for a  
COUNCIL DECISION

on health protection measures in respect of the Republic of  
Botswana

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(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

COM(78) 368 final



#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Following the appearance of exotic foot-and-mouth disease in the Republic of Botswana imports of fresh meat into the Community from the entire country have been prohibited by direct application of Article 14 of the Council's "Third Countries" Directive 72/462/EEC of 12 December 1972.

Article 15 of the Directive provides the possibility, using the Standing Veterinary Committee procedure, of limiting the prohibition to part of the territory of the country.

This Decision defines those areas of Botswana that are free of foot-and-mouth disease, are protected from the infected area by an intermediate zone free of the disease and other health guarantees that are good enough to allow their meat to be exported to the Member States.

As, however, the health requirements which under Article 16 of the above-mentioned Directive the Member States must demand to be met for meat imported from Botswana have not yet been formulated by the Community and as once formulated they will not enter into force until two years after the date of their adoption it remains open to the Member States to prohibit meat imports from that country; if they authorise importation it will be on the terms of this Decision.

This draft Decision has been put to the vote in the Standing Veterinary Committee; no opinion has been delivered. Under Article 29 of the said Directive it is thus transmitted as a Commission proposal to the Council.



Council Decision

Health protection measures in respect of the Republic of Botswana

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THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

having regard to Council Directive 72/462/EEC of 12 December 1972 on health and veterinary inspection problems upon importation of bovine animals and swine and fresh meat from third countries<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 15 thereof,

having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas there have been outbreaks of exotic foot-and-mouth disease in certain areas in the north of the Republic of Botswana; whereas, however, other parts of the country have been free of the disease for a number of years;

Whereas strict measures, in particular the prohibition of movements of livestock from contaminated regions to disease-free areas, are applied in the country; whereas the contaminated regions are clearly demarcated and separated from the disease-free areas by a system of barriers and quarantining; whereas measures are applied throughout the country to monitor the movements of livestock and detect any outbreak of the disease;

Whereas contaminated regions and areas adjacent to them must not be allowed to export fresh meat to Member States; whereas, having regard to the present location of the disease, the measures adopted by the authorities of the Republic of Botswana against the disease, the information obtained by Community veterinary experts who visited the country, relating to the organization of veterinary services and animal health controls, the country may be authorized to export to the Community fresh meat obtained from animals originating in regions which have been free of foot-and-mouth disease for a number of years;

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1. OJ No L 302, 31.12.1972, p.28

Whereas the particular animal health requirements of Member States pursuant to Article 16 of the abovementioned Directive in respect of meat imported from the Republic of Botswana have not yet been laid down at Community level and only enter into force two years after their adoption; whereas, pending the entry into force of such requirements, Member States are, however, free to prohibit imports of fresh meat from the said country;

Whereas, since the Standing Veterinary Committee has not given its assent, the Commission is unable to adopt the provisions it had envisaged on this matter under the procedure provided for in Article 29 of the Directive referred to above,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The prohibition provided for in Article 14 of Directive 72/462/EEC shall not apply to the following districts of the Republic of Botswana: KWENENG, KGATLEND, SOUTH-EAST; SOUTHERN and KGALAGADI.

Article 2

If a Member State authorizes the importation into its own territory of fresh de-boned meat from carcasses of animals of the bovine species originating in the districts referred to in Article 1 and slaughtered in one of these districts, the following conditions shall be applied:

- the meat shall satisfy the conditions indicated in the Health Certificate annexed hereto. This Certificate shall accompany the meat during transport to the importing Member State;
- the meat shall not enter the importing Member State's territory within a period of 21 days from the date of slaughter;
- the competent authority of the Republic of Botswana shall give assurances that it will notify the importing Member State and the Commission immediately, of any outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in the country.

Article 3

The Commission shall amend this Decision in the light of any developments in the situation.

Article 4

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council,

ANIMAL HEALTH CERTIFICATE

For fresh boned carcase <sup>(1)</sup> meat <sup>(2)</sup> of bovine animals from the Republic of Botswana

Reference number of the public health certificate .....

Exporting country .....

Ministry .....

Department .....

(OPTIONAL)

Ref. ....

I. Identification of meat :

Meat <sup>(3)</sup> of .....  
(animal species)

Nature of cuts <sup>(4)</sup> .....

Nature of packaging .....

Number of cuts or packages .....

Net weight .....

II. Origin of meat :

Address(es) and veterinary approval number(s) of the approved slaughterhouse(s)  
.....

Address(es) and veterinary approval number(s) of the approved cutting plant(s)  
.....

III. Destination of meat :

The meat will be sent from : .....  
(place of loading)

to : .....  
(country and place of destination)

by the following means of transport <sup>(5)</sup> .....

Name and address of consignor .....

Name and address of consignee .....



IV. Attestation of health :

I, the undersigned, official veterinarian, certify that:

1. the fresh boned carcass meat described above

(a) originates from cattle which

- were born and reared in the Republic of Botswana and which, since October 1977 or since birth have remained in one or more of the following districts: KWENENG, KGATLEND, SOUTH-EAST, SOUTHERN, KGALAGADI, those districts having been free of exotic foot-and-mouth disease for at least the last 12 months;
- Bore, in accordance with the legal provisions, a mark indicating their region of origin;
- had not been vaccinated against foot-and-mouth disease within the last 12 months;
- on the way to the slaughterhouse did not come into contact with animals not satisfying the conditions laid down in the Commission Decision of ..... as regards export of their meat to a Member State, and if they were conveyed by a means of transport, the latter was cleaned and disinfected before loading;
- when subjected to an ante-mortem health inspection at the slaughterhouse during the 24 hours preceding slaughter which included examination of the mouth and feet, showed no symptom of foot-and-mouth disease;
- were slaughtered after the entry into force of the aforesaid Decision (give the date of slaughter) .....

(b) was obtained in a slaughterhouse in which no case of exotic foot-and-mouth disease has been detected for at least three months;

(c) has been kept strictly separate from meat not conforming to the conditions for export to a Member State laid down in the Commission Decision of .....

(d) has had as many lymphatic glands as possible removed;

(e) originates from carcasses which were matured at an ambient temperature of more than +2°C for at least 48 hours after slaughter and before boning.

Annex

2. During the period between arrival of the cattle at the slaughterhouse and completion of the packing of the meat of the same cattle for export to a Member State in boxes or cartons, no animal or meat not conforming to the conditions laid down in the Commission Decision of ..... as regards export of meat to a Member State (with the exception of meat packed in boxes or cartons and kept in special storage areas) was present in the slaughterhouse or cutting plant.

Done at ..... on .....  
.....  
(signature of official veterinarian)

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1. CARCASE : means the whole body of a slaughtered animal after bleeding, evisceration removal of the limbs at the carpus and tarsus, removal of the head, tail and mammary gland and in addition, in the case of bovine animals, after skinning.
  2. FRESH MEAT : means all parts of domestic bovine animals fit for human consumption which have not undergone any preserving process; however, chilled and frozen meat shall be considered as fresh meat.
  3. Only fresh boned carcass meat of bovine animals from which the major accessible lymphatic glands have been removed is authorized for importation.
  4. Fresh carcass meat is only authorized for importation if all bones have been removed.
  5. For railway wagons or lorries the vehicle registration number should be stated, for aircraft the flight number and for ships the name.