

# COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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## COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL

concerning the effects of Community veterinary rules for swine fever and swine vesicular disease in relation to exports of pigmeat to Third Countries

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At the time of the adoption of the amendments to Directives 64/432/EEC, 72/461/EEC and 80/215/EEC as regards swine vesicular disease and swine fever, the Council and the Commission stressed the importance to the Community of its exports to Third Countries in the pigmeat sector and agreed to take the necessary measures in the common interest to maintain these export patterns.

The Commission confirmed that it would work towards this aim in the measures it would take, and would report to the Council on technical talks with certain Third Countries.

The Commission services visited the U.S.A. and held veterinary discussions with the United States authorities on 17-18 February 1981. During the consultations the above matter was considered.

The Community delegation explained the Community programmes for eradication of classical swine fever and requested confirmation that these measures would not unfavourably affect the status quo concerning the importation of pork into the U.S. The U.S.D.A. confirmed that the status quo for importation from Member States, including the principle of non-cominglement will be maintained. However, the U.S. questioned the value of the regionalisation within a state as a basis for guarantees in international trade.

Authorities also confirmed that there is a continuation of the status quo to swine vesicular disease.

S/EC report on these discussions is annexed.

According to a recent communication received by the Commission, it would appear that the American authorities have some difficulty in understanding certain specific points relating to the Community swine fever policy. Established contacts must be pursued so that additional information and explanations could be given as Community initiatives develop in this field so that the status quo can be maintained.

COMMISSION  
OF THE  
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Directorate-General for Agriculture

JOINT US/EC REPORT ON VETERINARY DISCUSSIONS

HELD FEBRUARY 17 - 18, 1981.

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1. Animal health certificate for fresh meat

Participants discussed US practices relating to two issues: certification on swine brucellosis and animal residency.

With respect to certification on swine brucellosis, it was established that 37 of 50 states had quarantine systems that would enable them to meet the requirement. More states might be added. The original 37 can be certified at this time. US will provide EC with information regarding other states as they meet the requirement.

With respect to residency of animals, the EC requires that animals have resided in the US for at least 3 months; US can make that certification.

2. Animal health certificates for live animals

a. Concerning blue tongue control, there was an exchange of views on the health guarantees in respect of blue tongue. US indicated that it did not consider that blue tongue in US justified a national eradication program; EC considers this disease important and requires exporting countries to be disease free. However, possibilities that health guarantees could be met on a regional basis were explored. It was not possible to find an approach which offered a solution to this problem. The alternative of exporting genetic material in the form of semen was suggested as potentially more promising in the near future. The need for further technical study and exchange of ideas on this possibility was identified.

b. In respect to leukosis, brucellosis, TB and other animal diseases, the discussions were limited as it appeared that solution to the blue tongue question was necessary first. Nonetheless it was agreed that it would be useful to continue to examine in detail the comparability of testing procedures.

3. EC requirements in relation to FMD

EC delegation described the favourable development of FMD control in Europe including the reinforced requirements in respect of importation of fresh meat (regionalization, de-boning and maturation).

USDA indicated that it could not contemplate any change in its current policies which involve any increased risk, and that the status quo concerning importation from Member States will be maintained.

4. U.S. requirements in relation to Classical Swine Fever

EC delegation explained the Community program for eradication of Classical Swine Fever and requested confirmation that these measures would not unfavourably affect the status quo concerning the importation of pork into the U.S. USDA confirmed that the status quo for importation from Member States, including the principle of non-comminglement, will be maintained. However, US questioned the value of the regionalisation within a state as a basis for guarantees in international trade.

5. Isolated Production of Meat Products

USDA delegation confirmed that it continued its policy of requiring that where meat products are manufactured using meat from a disease free country in another country which does not have that status, the processing must occur in establishments where no meat of other status is being processed. This is a continuation of the status quo relative to Swine Vesicular Disease.

6. Hygiene (Meat Inspection) Issues

EC delegation presented Commission thinking in respect to latest US document. These ideas were generally explored.

EC delegation undertook to take a majority of the issues raised into account in an appropriate form when presenting proposals on the matter to its authorities.

