

~~COMMISSION~~ OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

GENERAL BUDGET - FINANCIAL YEAR 1981

COM(81) 338 final

SECTION ~~TITLE~~ COMMISSION

Brussels, 22d June 1981

TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS N° 17/81

(Non-compulsory expenditure)

GENERAL BUDGET - FINANCIAL YEAR 1981

SECTION III - COMMISSION

TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS No 17/81
(Non-compulsory expenditure)

FROM CHAPTER 100 - PROVISIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

TO CHAPTER 31 - EXPENDITURE IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

Article 310 - Community action in campaigns against epidemics to which
the livestock of Member States may be exposed

Item 3101 - EEC participation in the campaign against African swine
fever; local measures

1.000.000 ECU

The Financial Controller approved this proposal on 7 May 1981 in accordance with Article 21(4) of the Financial Regulation and certified that appropriations are available.

JUSTIFICATION

The appropriations of 3 million ECU at Item 3101 and 1 million ECU for the same item at Chapter 100 are intended to cover EEC participation in the campaign against African swine fever in Spain, Malta and Portugal.

The legal basis is provided by ad hoc Council decisions. In the case of Spain and Malta these had already been taken when the preliminary draft budget for 1981 was established. The decision on Portugal was taken later, on 15 September 1980 (1).

The legal situation would have allowed the 1 million ECU appropriation to cover EEC participation in the campaign against African swine fever in Portugal to be entered automatically at Item 3101 in the course of the budget procedure.

However, since it remained at Chapter 100 of the 1981 budget, it must now be transferred to Item 3101.

The action to which the Community is giving its financial support is designed to eradicate African swine fever from the whole Iberian peninsula and Malta. To achieve this, programmes have been prepared by Spain, Portugal and Malta.

The programmes involve the following measures :

- on farms : surveillance of livestock, swift veterinary action in the event of suspected outbreaks of the disease, ultra-rapid laboratory diagnosis, quarantine for all suspect livestock, stamping out where the disease is confirmed, etc;
- in slaughterhouses : equipment, official licensing, veterinary inspections, etc;

.../...

- on the marketing side : official controls on the movement of animals, restriction and occasionally prohibition of markets, hygiene controls on meatprocessing plants.

The presence of African swine fever in the Iberian peninsula poses a serious and permanent threat to Community pig stocks. The disease is extremely contagious and can be transmitted not only from animal to animal but also via the meat or even via pigswill. Add to this the fact the mortality rate can rise above 80 % and the danger is clearly apparent.

As the disease spreads so easily, the best way to protect the Community is to eliminate it where it occurs.

As regards Portugal, the Council Decision provides for a total financial contribution of 5 million ECU towards the full eradication campaign (about 10 % of the total cost).

The scheme submitted to the Commission for approval in March provides for a series of annual tranches, allowing implementation to be reviewed and plans adjusted in the light of the situation. The aim is to eradicate African swine fever in the whole area by the end of five years. The estimated cost is 1 million ECU a year.

The budgetary authority is therefore requested to transfer 1 million ECU from Chapter 100 to Item 3101 of Chapter 31 so that the funds earmarked for the purpose can be committed for rapid action in Portugal similar to that already taken in Spain.

APPROPRIATIONS UNDER CHAPTER 100
AS OF 4 MAY 1981

	Total appropriations for commitments	Total appropriations for payments
1. Total funds allocated	407.079.000	369.019.000
2. Appropriations already transferred	6.160.000	6.160.000
3. Appropriations in the course of transfer	12.846.000	7.786.000
4. Remaining appropriations under Chapter 100	388.073.000	355.073.000