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European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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DOCUMENT 1-620/79

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture

on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 1-543/79) for a directive prolonging, in respect of swine fever, certain derogations granted to Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom

Rapporteur: Mrs E. CRESSON

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By letter of 21 November 1979 the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament, pursuant to Articles 43 and 100 of the EEC Treaty, to deliver an opinion on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a directive prolonging, in respect of swine fever, certain derogations granted to Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom.

The President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Agriculture.

On 29 November the Committee on Agriculture appointed Mrs Cresson rapporteur.

It considered this proposal at its meeting of 17 and 18 December 1979 and approved it unanimously.

Present: Sir Henry Plumb, chairman; Mrs Cresson, rapporteur; Mr Bocklet, Mrs Castle, Mr Clinton, Mr Curry, Mr Delatte, Mr Früh, Mr Gatto, Mr Helms, Mr Howell, Mr De Keersmaecker (deputizing for Mr Tolman), Mr Maffre-Baugé, Mr Martin (deputizing for Mr Pranchère), Mr d'Ormesson, Mr Papapietro, Mr Provan, Miss Quin, Mr Vernimmen, Mr Wettig and Mr Woltjer.

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A

The Committee on Agriculture hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution, together with explanatory statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the Proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a directive prolonging, in respect of swine fever, certain derogations granted to Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council¹,
- having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Articles 43 and 100 of the Treaty establishing the EEC (Doc. 1-543/79),
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture (Doc. 1-620/79),

Approves the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities.

¹ OJ No. C 295, 24.11.1979, p. 2

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. The Commission has submitted a proposal authorizing the three new Member States to maintain for a further period their national provisions for ensuring protection against swine fever. These states were given authority by the Act of Accession to derogate from the relevant Community rules, partly because health protection factors entailed the application of national measures that differed from those applied by the Six, and partly because the provisions of the latter had yet to be harmonized at Community level.

. It is essential to adopt measures at Community level, because only an approach aimed at eradicating swine fever in the Community as a whole will make it possible to introduce Community legislation for removing obstacles to trade in pigs and pigmeat, while avoiding the risk of spreading the disease.

3. The Committee on Agriculture has consistently endorsed the Commission's approach to the problem of swine fever and approved its proposals¹.

Although these proposals are now before the Council of Ministers, it has too little time in which to take the necessary decisions, since the derogations granted to the new Member States expire on 31 December 1979.

4. Further to this, the new Member States require some time in which to adjust to the Community regulations and implement them.

Unless the derogations are extended with effect from 1 January 1980, the new Member States would find themselves in some difficulty, in that they would be obliged to implement a Directive tailored to the needs of the original Six.

Consequently, the derogations should be extended one last time.

The Committee on Agriculture sees no objection to such an extension and recommends that Parliament approve the Commission's proposal.

¹ Report by Mr NEY - Doc. 33/79 of 6 April 1979;
Report by Mrs CRESSON, PE 59.521/fin. of 3 December 1979