

HILLMAN ^{COM192}

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(79) 511 final

Brussels, 3rd October 1979

MAR 5 1980

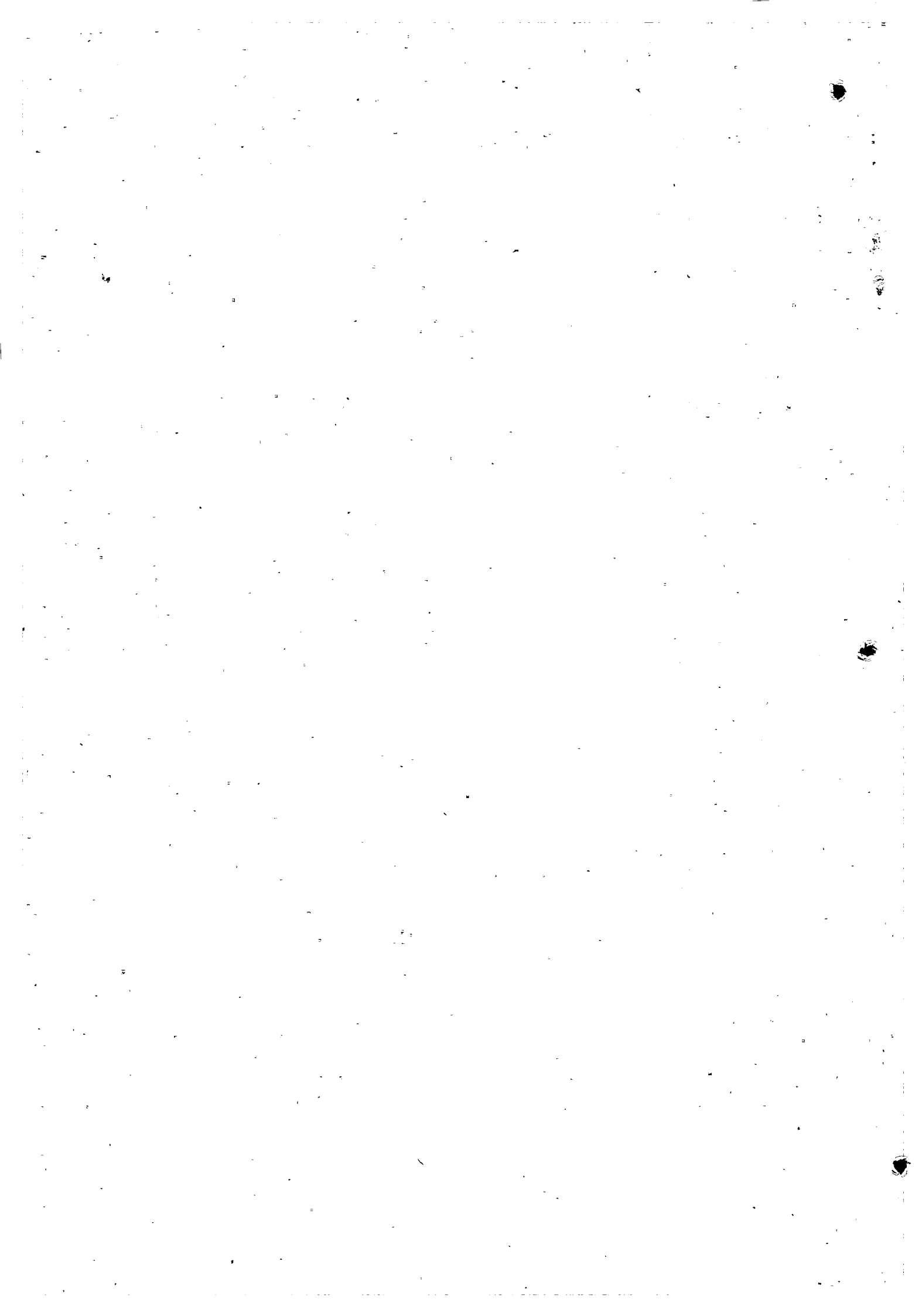
COMMUNICATIONS
HILLMAN

MAR 10 1980

COORDINATION OF THE POSITION OF MEMBER STATES
IN RESPECT OF THE CONVENTION OF THE COUNCIL
OF EUROPE CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS
KEPT FOR FARMING PURPOSES

(Communication from the Commission to the Council)

COM(79) 511 final



EXPLANATORY NOTE

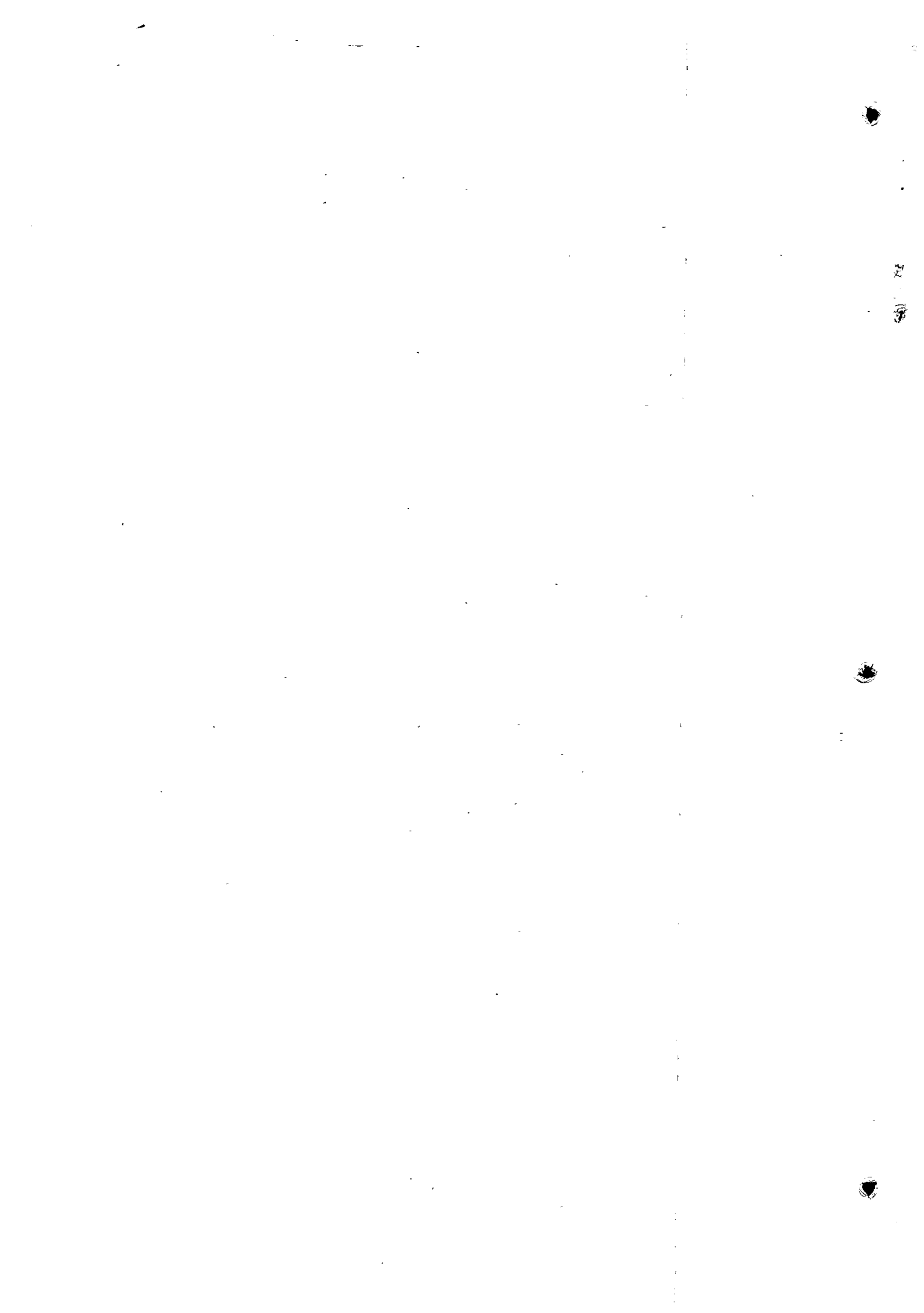
The European Convention for the Protection of Animals kept for Farming Purposes, concluded under the auspices of the Council of Europe, was approved on behalf of the European Economic Community by the Council (Decision 78/923/EEC) (1).

Article 8 of the Convention provided for the setting-up of a Standing Committee charged with working out detailed rules for the purposes of applying this Convention.

Since the Community is not yet a contracting party to the Convention, owing to the fact that it has not submitted the instruments of accession, it is allowed merely observer status without voting rights. However, four Member States (Germany, France, Luxembourg and the United Kingdom) are already in a position to take part in the voting of this Committee on which they represent, in any case, the majority of the votes.

It is therefore necessary to coordinate the position of the Member States for the next meeting of the Standing Committee, especially since this Committee will deal with the inclusion in its rules of procedure of a clause allowing the EEC to take part in the voting when the EEC has become a contracting party to the Convention.

(1) O.J. No L 323 of 17.11.1978, p. 12



COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL

Subject : Coordination of the position of Member States in respect of the Convention of the Council of Europe concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes.

- A. By Decision 78/923/EEC of 19th June 1978⁽¹⁾ the Council approved the European Convention for the protection of animals kept for farming purposes on behalf of the Community as the Convention already includes clauses enabling the Community to become a contracting party.

Article 8 of the Convention provides for the establishment of a Standing Committee to be responsible for the elaboration and adoption of recommendations to the contracting parties for the detailed application of the Convention. The Standing Committee has now been set-up and at present is composed of representatives with voting rights, namely France, Germany, Cyprus, Sweden, Luxembourg and United Kingdom, the remainder of the Member States of the Council of Europe and the EEC at present only having the observer status.

In accordance with Article 8, paragraph 6 of the Convention the Committee is in the process of establishing internal rules for its activities.

As the question directly involves the Community and is one of Community competence it is necessary to coordinate the positions of Member States for the next meeting on this subject, whether Member States be contracting parties or observers.

- B. The Commission has studied the internal rules and proposes that :

- the Council agrees that Member States shall request modification of the text in accordance with the Annex, the Commission being in principle the spokesman for the Communities;
- on the spot coordination shall take place if necessary.

ANNEX

The text of the new Article to be added to the Rules of Procedure of the Standing Committee of the European Convention for the protection of animals kept for farming purposes :

"Within its competences, the European Economic Community is entitled to a number of votes equal to the number of its Member States which are Contracting Parties to the present Convention.

The European Economic Community shall not exercise its right to vote in cases where its Member States exercise theirs and conversely."