
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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DOCUMENT 1-10/80

REPORT

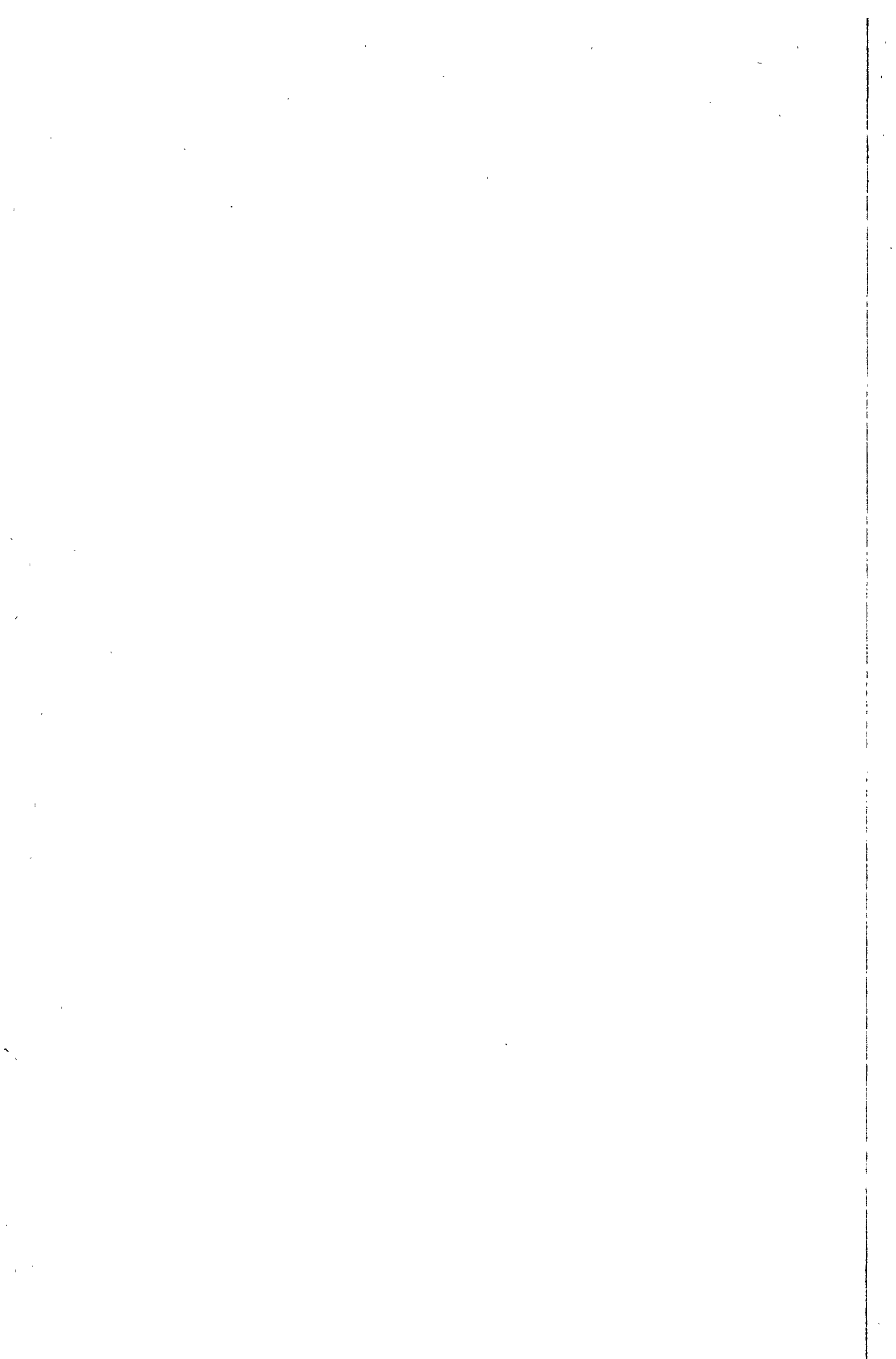
drawn up on behalf of the Committee
on Agriculture

on /sheepmeat

Rapporteur: Mr J. PROVAN

1.2.1

PE 61.425/fin.



On 23 October 1979 the President of the European Parliament referred under Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Provan on behalf of the European Democratic Group on sheepmeat to the Committee on Agriculture as committee responsible.

On 19-20 November 1979, the Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr Provan rapporteur.

It considered the draft report on 30-31 January 1980, 27-29 February 1980 and 11 March 1980.

On 11 March 1980 the committee adopted the motion for a resolution with 12 votes in favour, 8 against and 6 abstentions.

Present : Sir Henry Plumb, chairman; Mr Früh, vice-chairman; Mr Provan, rapporteur; Miss Brookes (deputizing for Mr Battersby), Mr Buchou, Mr Blaney (deputizing for Mr Skovmand), Mrs Castle, Mr Clinton, Mrs Cresson, Mr Curry, Mr Davern, Mr de Keersmaecker (deputizing for Mr Ligios), Mr Diana, Mr Gautier, Mr Helms, Mrs Herklotz, Mr Howell, Mr Kirk, Mr Jürgens, Mrs Martin (deputizing for Mr Caillavet), Mr Maher, Mr d'Ormesson, Mr Pisani (deputizing for Mr Lyngé), Ms Quin, Mr Tolman, Mr Woltjer

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

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on sheepmeat

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr PROVAN on behalf of the European Democratic Group (doc. 1-410/79),
- having regard to Articles 12, 30 and 39 of the EEC Treaty,
- having regard to the Decision of the European Court of Justice on 25 September 1979,
- having regard to the need for rational development of the Common Agricultural Policy,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture (Doc. 1-10/80),

I. Legal Implications

1. Considers that non-respect by a Member State of a ruling of the Court of Justice of 25 September 1979 prejudices the future cohesion of the Community which, without acceptance of the rule of law, would cease to exist;
2. Points out that the Chermasson Judgement of 10 December 1974 provided for national market organizations to be maintained only until the end of the transitional period on 31 December 1977;
3. Considers, for these reasons, that the Council of Ministers should take a rapid decision on proposals for a sheepmeat regime;

II. Sheepmeat Regime

4. Emphasizes the importance of sheepmeat production for the economy of the less-favoured regions of the Community and for the continued existence of a rural community in these areas where natural conditions are less suitable to other crop and livestock productions, and where there are few alternative types of production available;
5. Emphasizes the considerable importance of sheep and goatmeat production to the three countries applying for accession to the EEC;

6. Stresses the importance of agreement being reached in the immediate future on a market organization for sheepmeat; and that, during the interim:
 - (a) the French Government be authorized to grant temporary financial aids; and
 - (b) that ceilings on exports within the Community be agreed on by the Member States concerned and a timetable worked out in advance;
7. Believes that a sheepmeat regime, based on the principles of free trade and financial solidarity, should:
 - (a) recognize the importance of sheepmeat production to certain regions of the Community and the differences in Community production structures;
 - (b) safeguard the incomes and future livelihood of producers throughout the Community, and in particular by:
 - (i) the application of an intervention system for sheep and sheepmeat similar to the intervention arrangement already provided for in the cattle and beef sector.
 - (ii) recognizing the importance of milk and cheese production from sheep and goat herds in certain regions of the Community.
- '8. Asks the Commission, in view of the importance of the production of sheep and goat's milk and cheese in certain regions of the Community, notably the Mediterranean, to examine the situation of producers in these areas and propose any measures required to ensure them a fair standard of living;
9. Considers that special aid measures should be granted, as part of regional development plans, to those producers in areas facing depopulation or serious loss of employment possibilities, within Community guidelines in order to further the ideal of a Community Rural Policy covering regional, social and agricultural aims.
- '10. Believes that there will be continued scope for imports from third countries, given that the Community is at present no more than two-thirds self-sufficient in sheepmeat; but considers that such imports should be properly monitored and that agreements be concluded with third countries so as to ensure orderly marketing of agreed fixed quantities of imports at prices which would not depress the Community market, with such agreements being renegotiated from time to time in order to take into account expansion of production in the Community;'

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11. Urges that measures be adopted to improve production and marketing structures, and in particular:
 - (a) measures under the directives on the modernization of farms and on mountain and hill farming and farming in less-favoured areas;
 - (b) measures to improve breeds, grassland techniques and management and equipment; and
 - (c) measures to improve the marketing process and distribution of sheepmeat to stimulate consumption and ensure that producers receive a fair proportion of the final retail price of sheepmeat;
 12. Instructs its President to forward this resolution and the report of its committee to the Council and Commission of the European Communities.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENTI LEGAL IMPERATIVES

There are two Court Judgements which make it imperative that a common market organization be established.

Firstly, the Charmasson Judgement of 10 December 1974, which provided for national market organizations to be maintained only until the end of the transitional period on 31 December 1977, makes it necessary to adopt common market organizations, or allow unregulated trade, for sheepmeat, ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin, potatoes, honey and bananas, all of which are still subject to national agricultural market organizations.

It would have been possible for the national market organizations to continue provided they did not constitute obstacles to trade in agricultural products within the Community. Since this is not the case, they must be replaced by common organizations.

Secondly, the Court of Justice of the European Communities ruled in September that the French ban on imports of lamb from other Member States is illegal.

Respect for the judgements of the Court is imperative for the continued survival of the Community. The Community has admitted that it has no retaliatory powers to make a national government comply with the law.

The committee recommends that the European Parliament be seen to defend the legal basis of the Community, particularly as the Common Agricultural Policy is the only true policy so far developed by the Community, and increasingly that policy is under attack. Any failure on the part of the European Parliament to defend the integrity of the Community will only encourage those who seek to undermine the Common Agricultural Policy.

The Community is based upon the principle of free trade and non discrimination between producers within the Community in market organizations (Article 40(3)) and in any transitional arrangement (Article 44). These basic principles must be respected in the interests of all Member States.