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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AND FORESTRY

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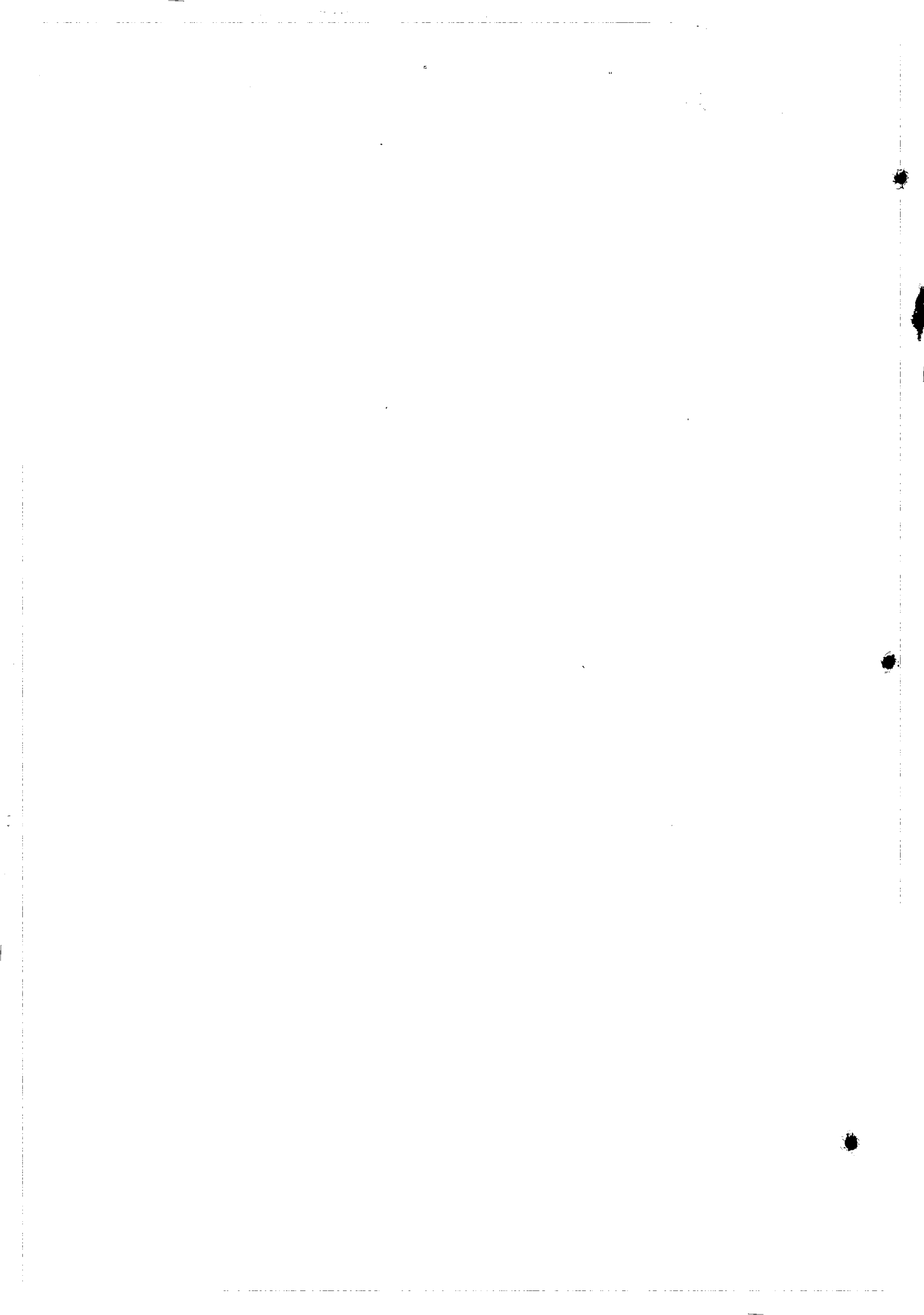
PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL DIRECTIVE  
AMENDING DIRECTIVE 72/461/EEC ON HEALTH PROBLEMS  
AFFECTING INTRA-COMMUNITY TRADE IN FRESH MEAT

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MAR 10 1980

(presented by the Commission to the Council)

COM(79) 383 final



EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Council Directive 72/461/EEC of 12 December 1972 on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in fresh meat lays down the conditions which must be satisfied by live animals before they are slaughtered for fresh meat for intra-Community trade. The effect of these provisions is to exclude from intra-Community trade certain categories of meat which satisfy the health rules in respect of human consumption but which may transmit contagious animal diseases.

The work done on harmonization, notably regarding trade in meat products, shows that certain treatments, particularly heat treatment, can destroy the germs of contagious animal diseases and avoid any risk of those diseases spreading.

It is therefore possible to authorize the use, for the preparation of certain products, of fresh meat which would, as fresh meat, be excluded from intra-Community trade on animal health grounds.

The necessary amendments should therefore be made to the abovementioned Directive by the creation of a special health mark to enable such meat to be identified and its use monitored in the Member State in which it was obtained.

COUNCIL DIRECTIVE

amending Directive 72/461/EEC on health problems  
affecting intra-Community trade in fresh meat

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THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and  
in particular Articles 43 and 100 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee,

Having regard to the Opinion of the European Parliament,

Whereas Council Directive 72/461/EEC<sup>(1)</sup>,

as last amended by Directive

78/54/EEC<sup>(2)</sup>, lays down the health requirements which must be fulfilled by  
animals from which meat is obtained;

Whereas although the meat obtained from animals not satisfying the health  
conditions must be excluded from intra-Community trade in fresh meat because  
of the risk of transmission of contagious animal diseases, it may be used for  
other purposes when it has undergone treatment for the destruction of the germs  
of those diseases;

Whereas such meat should therefore be given a health mark indicating that it  
is excluded from intra-Community trade as fresh meat and guaranteeing its  
health qualities for other uses, for example for the preparation of certain  
categories of meat products,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DIRECTIVE :

Article 1

Directive 72/461/EEC is amended as follows:

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(1) O.J. No L 302, 31.12.1972, p. 24

(2) O.J. No L 16, 20.1.1978, p. 22

1. An Article 5a as follows is inserted:

"With a view to its use for purposes other than intra-Community trade in fresh meat, meat as referred to in Article 5(1) may, provided that it satisfies the conditions laid down in Directive 64/433/EEC, be given the health mark defined in Annex I and may be kept and used in accordance with the said Directive, and in particular Chapter IX of Annex I. Such meat must be obtained, handled, cut, transported and stored separately or at different times from meat intended for intra-Community trade in fresh meat."

The following Annex I is added:

"Health mark for meat intended for uses other than intra-Community trade in fresh meat;

The health mark must be an oval stamp 6.5 cm long and 4.5 cm high; the following information must appear on the mark in perfectly legible characters :

- on the upper part, the name of the exporting country in capitals;
- in the centre, the veterinary approval number of the slaughterhouse;
- on the lower part, one of the following sets of initials : EEC, CEE, EWG, EEG or
- two perpendicular lines crossing the stamp diagonally, intersecting at the centre of the stamp in such a way that the information can be read.

The letters must be 0.8 cm high and the figures 1 cm high.

The stamp may also identify the veterinarian who inspected the meat."

#### Article 2

The Member States shall bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive by 1 July 1980.

Article 3

This Directive is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council

The President