

European Communities

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1980 - 1981

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16 June 1980

DOCUMENT 1-228/80

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture

**on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 1-95/80) for a decision to provide a financial contribution from the Community towards the eradication of African swine fever in Portugal**

**Rapporteur: Mr H.J. BUCHOU**

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By letter of 14 April 1980 the President of the Council requested the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty, to deliver an opinion on the proposal for a Council decision to provide a financial contribution from the Community towards the eradication of African swine fever in Portugal.

The President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Agriculture as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Budgets for its opinion.

At its meeting of 19 May 1980 the Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr Buchou rapporteur.

It considered this proposal at its meeting of 3, 4 and 5 June 1980 and at the same meeting the committee unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution and the explanatory statement.

Present: Sir Henry Plumb, chairman; Mr Fröh, vice-chairman; Mr Buchou, rapporteur; Mrs Barbarella, Mr Clinton, Mr Dalsass, Mr Diana, Mr Helms, Mr Jürgens, Mr Kirk, Mr Lynge, Mr McCartin (deputizing for Mr Bocklet), Mr Maher, Mr Brøndlund Nielsen, Mr d'Ormesson, Miss Quin and Mr Wettig.

The opinion of the Committee on Budgets is attached.

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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

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a decision to provide a financial contribution from the Community towards the eradication of African swine fever in Portugal  
The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council<sup>1</sup>,
  - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty (Doc.1-95/80),
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (Doc. 1-228/80),
1. Approves the proposal, the aim of which is to eradicate African swine fever in Portugal, as it is in the interest of the Community pig herd that this highly contagious disease be eradicated completely from a future Member State of the Community and because the basic conditions need to be created now for unrestricted trade in pigs and pigmeat;
  2. Considers it important that the implementation of this campaign, which is a logical follow-up to a similar campaign to eradicate African swine fever in Spain, for which the Community likewise provided a financial contribution, should be regularly monitored and coupled with a permanent information procedure between the Community and the Portuguese authorities, thus enabling the progress of the eradication programme and associated measures to be assessed, so that the success of the campaign may as far as possible be ensured within a period of five years;
  3. Considers it proper that the allocation of aid should be conditional on the approval of a programme drawn up by the Portuguese authorities, and calls on the Commission and the Council to take steps without delay to create, in cooperation with the Portuguese authorities, the basic conditions necessary for the gradual improvement of the state of health of Portugal's pig herd, so that the set objective can be achieved within the prescribed period.

<sup>1</sup>OJ No. C 93, 16.4.1980, p. 6

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The aim of the proposal is to allocate to the competent Portuguese authorities a financial contribution of 5 million EUA to enable them to implement a programme for the eradication of African swine fever in Portugal. African swine fever is a highly contagious disease which has caused the death of large numbers of pigs and therefore represents a very serious threat to the pig population of the entire Iberian peninsula. The Community has already granted a financial contribution for a campaign to eradicate this disease in Spain, and consequently a parallel campaign in Portugal is essential if the veterinary measures taken in Spain to combat the disease are to be effective.

The report drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture by Mr NEY<sup>1</sup> already stressed the need for Portugal, pending an extension of the eradication campaign, to take measures to prevent the disease from being imported across the Spanish-Portuguese border. It is therefore important, in view of the forthcoming enlargement of the Community, that the measures taken by Spain and Portugal be brought to a successful conclusion in order to avoid contamination of Community livestock and to promote the greatest possible freedom in trading in pigmeat.

Vigorous efforts must be made in the whole Iberian peninsula to combat the risk of an epidemic and therefore it is vital that the necessary basic conditions be created now in Portugal, since this country, unlike Spain, does not have the requisite veterinary infrastructure for taking all the measures necessary for the effective implementation of the programme. To a large extent this programme runs parallel with a similar campaign undertaken by Spain, designed to eradicate African swine fever completely within a period of five years.

It is extremely important for the Community to be able to monitor these measures regularly and to cooperate closely with the Portuguese authorities. The Community contribution of 5 million EUA (13.5% of the total cost as estimated by Portugal) is spread over several years, thus making it possible to adapt the plan as changes in the situation may require; Community aid may even be suspended if the Commission considers that the results achieved justify such action. As in the case of the eradication campaign in Spain, the programme provides for the immediate slaughter of pigs in infected holdings and the establishment and maintenance of disease-free zones and other veterinary measures referred to in Article 3 of the proposal.

<sup>1</sup>Doc.34/79 of 6 April 1979

The question remains whether the envisaged Community contribution will be adequate, in addition to the measures taken by the Portuguese authorities, for the objective to be achieved within a period of five years. However, this should not prevent the Community from making a start as soon as possible on the implementation of the eradication programme in collaboration with the Portuguese authorities; pending the adoption of the 1980 budget, the amount of aid proposed will suffice for the time being, although it may have to be revised at a later date to take account of developments in the situation.

Drawing attention again to the need for a permanent exchange of information between the Community and Portugal on the eradication of this disease, and having regard to the importance of a high standard of health protection of the pig herd in the whole Iberian peninsula for livestock production both in the Community and in Spain and Portugal, the Committee on Agriculture can approve the Commission proposal.

O P I N I O N O F T H E C O M M I T T E E O N B U D G E T S

Letter from the chairman of the committee to Sir Henry Plumb,  
chairman of the Committee on Agriculture

Luxembourg, 4 May 1980

Subject: Opinion of the Committee on Budgets on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities for a Council decision to provide a financial contribution from the Community towards the eradication of African swine fever in Portugal (COM(80) 125 final)

Dear Mr Chairman,

The Committee on Budgets considered the above proposal at its meeting of 28/29 April 1980.

The financial implications of this measure, which is based on Article 43 of the Treaty, amount to a total of 3 million EUA (1 million EUA per year from 1982 to 1984) and will be charged against item 3101. A majority of the committee approved the measure which seeks to enable certain measures to be taken in Portugal in the period prior to accession. The committee was surprised to note that the Commission was taking the unusual step of making a proposal which would only have financial implications from 1982 onwards.

According to Parliament's usual procedure, the attention of the committee responsible should also be drawn to Article 5(4) of the proposal. In this article the Commission proposes a management committee procedure which confers extensive executive powers on the Council in violation of Article 205 of the Treaty and which is therefore unacceptable.

.../...



Subject to the reservations expressed above the committee approved the proposal by 15 votes with 3 abstentions.

Yours sincerely,

Erwin Lange

Present: Mr Lange, chairman; Mr Notenboom and Mr Spinelli, vice-chairmen; Mr Arndt, Mr Baillot, Mr Balfe, Mr Bonde, Mrs Boserup, Mr Colla, Mr Dankert, Mr Fich, Mr Forth, Mr Gouthier, Mrs Hoff, Mr Nord, Lord O'Hagan, Mrs Scrivener, Mr Simonnet, Mr J.M. Taylor and Mr Tuckman.

