

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(81) 226 final

Brussels, 11 May 1981

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL

Coordination of the positions of Member States in view of the 4th meeting
of the WHO/FAO Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene - 18-22 May 1981 (London)

COM(81) 226 final

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL

Subject : Coordination of the positions of Member states in view of the 4th meeting of the WHO/FAO Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene 18 - 22 May 1981 (London) .

The joint secretariat of the WHO/FAO Codex alimentarius Commission will hold a meeting of its Meat Hygiene Committee in London 18-22 May 1981. By its document CX 5/25.2 CH 1980/27 of June 1980 government comments were requested in respect to a Draft International Code of Principles for Ante-mortem and Post-mortem Judgment of Slaughter Animals and Meat.

The matter covered by this draft is already subject to Community legislation by virtue in particular of directive 64/433/EEC (1) on health problems of intra-community trade in fresh meat as modified, directive 72/462/EEC (2) on health and veterinary inspection problems upon importation of bovine animals and swine and fresh meat from third countries as modified, directive 72/461/EEC (3) on animal health problems affecting intra-community trade in fresh meat as modified, directive 77/99/EEC (4) on health problems of intra-community trade in meat products, it is therefore necessary to coordinate the positions of Member states in respect of this work.

In consequence the Commission proposes that the Council agrees :

- a) That in respect of the discussions of the above mentioned Draft International Code of Principles for Ante-mortem and Post-mortem Judgment of Slaughter Animals and Meat the Member states
- should not adopt a position which is contrary to Community legislation or will prejudice Community legislation in this field ;
 - should take particular account of the aspects and paragraphs of the code listed in the Annex in relation to Community legislation ;
 - there shall be the usual coordination on the spot as necessary.

ANNEX

Coordination of the position of Member states in the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Draft International Code of Principles for Ante-mortem and Post-mortem Judgment of Slaughter Animals and Meat.

1. Paragraph 47 ii)

No specific decisions are mentioned for ante-mortem inspection, for example tuberculosis suspect animals can be introduced into the slaughterhouse provided special precautions are taken.

(Directive 72/462/EEC Annex CH. V 15 and 16 indicate specific Community requirements).

2. Paragraphs 47 ii), 50 ii), 51 ii) and 54

Use of sanitary slaughterhouse for suspect animals generally is not obligatory, slaughtering may take place after normal slaughter.

(Directive 72/462/EEC Annex CH I. f. requires premises reserved for slaughter of sick or suspect animals unless there are rules to forbid their killing).

3. Paragraph 68

Different categories of final judgment are provided for after post-mortem inspection. e.g. heat-treatment of meat prior to consumption.

(Directive 72/462/EEC requires all meat to be fit for consumption and subject to examination for trichinae in accordance with directive 77/99/EEC.

Directive 77/99/EEC requires the same conditions for the raw material for meat products. Specific animal health conditions are laid down in directive 71/461/EEC; and 80/43/EEC, 80/214/EEC and 80/215/EEC concerning fresh meat and meat products).

4. The Annex provides details of special judgments.

These details are not provided for in Community legislation generally; the need for such detailed classification may be questioned.

In certain areas for example foot- and mouth disease Community legislation requires specific handling according to the health situation concerned.

5. Residues - Appendix 3

Anabolic Agents - Hormonal substances

Pesticides

Antibiotics

Other

(Directive 72/462/EEC prohibits in a general way importation of fresh meat with residues of these substances in so far as they are in excess of the permitted levels).

Proposals on details of these substances are at present at the level of the Council. Member states should not take a position which will prejudice Community activity in this field.

6. Paragraphs 46, 52 and 53

The definition of an inspector only requires the person responsible for hygiene and inspection to be a veterinarian. Community legislation requires not only the responsibility but also the tasks and decisions required of ante-mortem inspection to be undertaken by an official veterinarian.

7. Animal Health Judgments

A variety of actions and judgments are provided for in the Annex which concern animal health. These must be considered on a case by case basis for compatibility with Community animal health requirements.