

# COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(89) 502 final

Brussels, 17 October 1989

Proposal for a  
COUNCIL DECISION  
introducing a Community financial measure for the  
eradication of Infectious Haemopoietic Necrosis  
of Salmonids in the Community

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(presented by the Commission)

## EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Infectious Haemopoietic Necrosis (IHN) is a disease affecting salmonids and which, if it appears on a farm, may cause serious losses. There is no therapeutic treatment possible. Fish which survive remain carriers of the virus and may thus spread the disease.

The occurrence of IHN has, until the last years, been limited to certain areas of Northern America. It appeared in 1987 in two Member States. A restricted number of foci has been discovered.

The infection rate in the Community is not known at present. However, the presence of the virus is a permanent threat for the productivity in the fisheries sector.

This proposal aims to determine the infection rate in the Community by organising an epidemiological enquiry on its territory. The results of this enquiry must then allow the Commission to assess the epidemiological situation in order to propose subsequently, if necessary, the measures for the elimination of this disease from the territory of the Community.

In this proposal, the Commission opted for the Regulatory Committee procedure, since it wished to avoid disrupting the existing management machinery in the animal health sector. More generally, however, the Commission continues to prefer the Advisory Committee procedure.

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THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

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

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament,

Whereas Infectious Haemopoietic Necrosis (IHN) of Salmonids is a highly-  
contagious viral disease which may cause important losses to fish farms;

Whereas it is necessary in the first instance to lay down appropriate  
surveillance measures in order to obtain the information necessary to decide  
on possible measures for the elimination of the disease;

Whereas Member States must present an eradication plan;

Whereas the Community financial aid will consist of a partial reimbursement of  
the expenditure incurred by the Member States for sampling operations and  
laboratory examination;

Whereas the measures must be adopted following a procedure in which the Member  
States and the Commission co-operate closely,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Member States shall, before 1 January 1990, submit a plan with a view to eradicating IHN.

Article 2

The definitions in Council Regulation (EEC) NO ..... concerning the animal health conditions governing the placing on the market of aquaculture animals and products (1) shall apply.

Article 3

The plan referred to in Article 1 shall provide for:

1. the central authorities which are to implement and coordinate the plan;
2. the registration of farms engaged in salmonid farming;
3. the monitoring of all movements of salmonids;
4. sampling for virus detection on the farms engaged in salmonid farming; the number of samples to be taken must depend on the animal health situation;
5. the transfer of samples to an approved laboratory for submission to a virological examination for the detection of IHN and Viral Haemorrhagic Septicaemia (VHS) viruses;
6. the estimated unit costs for sampling and laboratory examination, as well as estimated total costs for carrying out the operations.

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(1)

Article 4

The Commission shall examine the plans drawn up by the Member States in order to ascertain whether they meet the conditions for their approval or whether they should be amended in any way.

The plans, including any amendments to them, shall be approved in accordance with the procedure provided for in Article 11.

Article 5

The measure provided for in this Decision shall qualify for financial aid from the Community.

Article 6

1. Community financial assistance shall be granted for a period of one year from the date fixed by the Commission in its decisions approving the plans referred to in Article 1.
2. The estimated assistance to be charged to the Community budget under the Chapter covering expenditure relating to agriculture shall be 2 million ecus for the duration of the period provided for in paragraph 1.

Article 7

1. On condition that all the measures laid down are applied and are in compliance with the plan approved pursuant to Article 4, the expenditure incurred by the Member States pursuant to Article 3(4) and (5) shall qualify for Community financial aid within the limits laid down in Article 6.
2. The Community shall refund 50% of the expenditure referred to in paragraph 1.
3. Detailed rules for the application of this Article shall be adopted, as required, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 11.

Article 8

1. Applications for payment shall relate to expenditure incurred by the Member States during the calendar year and shall be submitted to the Commission before 1 July of the following year.
2. The Commission shall decide on aid after consulting the Committee referred to in Article 10.
3. Detailed rules for the application of this Article shall be adopted, as required, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 11.

Article 9

Articles 8 and 9 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 729/70 (1) shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

Article 10

The Commission shall be assisted by the Standing Veterinary Committee (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee"), set up by Council Decision 68/361/EEC (2).

Article 11

1. Where the procedure laid down in this Article is to be followed, the Chairman shall refer the matter to the Committee, either on his own initiative or at the request of the representative of a Member State.
2. The representative of the Commission shall submit to the Committee a draft of the measures to be taken. The Committee shall deliver its opinion on the draft within a time limit which the Chairman may lay down according to the urgency of the matter. The opinion shall be delivered by the majority laid down in Article 148 (2) of the Treaty in the case of decisions which the Council is required to adopt on a proposal from the Commission. The votes of the representatives of the Member States within the Committee shall be weighted in the manner set out in that Article. The Chairman shall not vote.

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(1) OJ No L 94, 28.4.1970, p. 13.

(2) OJ No L 255, 18.10.1968, p. 23.

3. The Commission shall adopt the measures envisaged if they are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee.
4. If the measures envisaged are not in accordance with the opinion of the Committee, or if no opinion is delivered, the Commission shall, without delay, submit to the Council a proposal relating to the measures to be taken. The Council shall act by a qualified majority.

If, on the expiry of three months from the date of referral to the Council, the Council has not acted, the proposed measures shall be adopted by the Commission.

#### Article 12

The Commission shall carry out on-the-spot checks to ensure that the eradication plan is being applied.

The Commission shall inform the Member States within the Committee of the results of the plans in the light of the information provided by the Member States, who shall submit a report to the Commission together with the applications for payment and any reports from experts who, acting on behalf of the Community and appointed by the Commission, have made on-the-spot visits.

#### Article 13

A further Community financial measure for the eradication of IHN may be undertaken depending on the results of the measure provided for in this Decision.

#### Article 14

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at

For the Council  
The President

FINANCIAL STATEMENT concerning:

DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL DECISION INTRODUCING  
A COMMUNITY FINANCIAL MEASURE FOR THE ERADICATION OF  
INFECTIOUS HAEMOPOIETIC NECROSIS OF SALMONIDS IN THE COMMUNITY

1. Budget Heading: III B 381  
Eradication programmes in the Community

2. Legal basis: Article 43 of the Treaty

3. Classification: compulsory expenditure

4. Purpose/description of the measure: participation in the cost for an  
epidemiological enquiry for the  
eradication of IHN.

5. Method of calculation:

5.1 Form of expenditure: reimbursement of a part of national expenditure.

5.2 Community contribution: 50% of eligible expenditure.

5.3 Calculation:

(in MECU)	eligible expenditure	rate	Comm. contribution
laboratory tests	3.6	50%	1.8
sampling	<u>0.4</u>	50%	<u>0.2</u>
	4.0		2.0

6. Financial implementation as regards operating appropriations.

6.1 Schedule of appropriations (MECU)

<u>Year</u>	<u>CA/PA</u>
1990	
1991	2,00
1992	pm
1993	
1994	
1995	
following years	_____

TOTAL 2,00

6.2 Financing during current year: none

7. Observations: this proposal will help to bring about the internal market.



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# DOCUMENTS

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Catalogue number : CB-CO-89-457-EN-C

ISBN 92-77-53674-8

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Office for Official Publications of the European Communities  
L-2985 Luxembourg