



European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

SESSION DOCUMENTS

English Edition

14 January 1991

A3-0007/91



R E P O R T

of the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural
Development

on the Commission proposal for a Council decision amending
Decision 90/218/EEC concerning the administration of Bovine
Somatotropin (BST)
(COM(90) 0531 final - C3-0007/91)

Rapporteur: Mr José HAPPART

DOC_EN\RR\102273

PE 146.321/fin.
Or. Fr.

A Series: Reports - B Series: Motions for Resolutions, Oral Questions - C Series: Documents received from other Institutions (e.g. Consultations)

* = Consultation procedure requiring a single reading

**II = Cooperation procedure (second reading) which requires the votes of a majority of the current Members of Parliament for rejection or amendment

**I = Cooperation procedure (first reading)

*** = Parliamentary assent which requires the votes of a majority of the current Members of Parliament

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By letter of 8 January 1991 the Council consulted the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty, on the Commission proposal for a Council decision amending Decision 90/218/EEC concerning the administration of Bovine Somatotropin (BST).

At the sitting of 21 January 1991 the President of Parliament announced that he had referred this proposal to the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development as the committee responsible and to the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection for its opinion.

At its meeting of 19 and 20 December 1990 the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development had appointed Mr Happart rapporteur.

At its meeting of 10 and 11 January 1991 it considered the Commission proposal and draft report.

At the latter meeting it adopted the draft legislative resolution unopposed, with 5 abstentions.

The following took part in the vote: Colino Salamanca, chairman; Graefe zu Baringdorf, vice-chairman; Happart, rapporteur; Bocklet, Carvalho Cardoso, Chiabrando (for Mottola), Dalsass, Funk, Kofoed, Lane, Livanos, Lulling (for Keppelhoff-Wiechert), McCartin, Maher (for Vohrer), Marck, Miranda da Silva (for Piquet), Navarro, Nicholson (for Borgo), Partsch (for Falqui), F. Pisoni (for N. Pisoni), Plumb, Rothe, Santos Lopez, Saridakis, Sierra Bardaji, Sonneveld, Stevenson, Thareau and Verbeek.

The opinion of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection will be published separately.

The report was tabled on 14 January 1991.

The deadline for tabling amendments will appear on the draft agenda for the part-session at which the report is to be considered.

A

Commission proposal for a Council decision
amending Decision 90/218/EEC concerning
the administration of Bovine Somatotropin (BST)

Commission text*

Amendments

(Amendment No. 1)
Article 1

Council Decision 90/218/EEC of 25 April 1990 concerning the administration of Bovine Somatotropin is modified as follows:

1. In Article 1 the date of 31 December 1990 is replaced by 31 December 1991.
2. In Article 4 the date of 1 October 1990 is replaced by 1 October 1991.
3. In Article 4 the date of 31 December 1990 is replaced by 31 December 1991.

As soon as it has obtained findings from in-depth research, the Commission shall submit to the Council and the European Parliament a report on all the issues involved and their consequences, particularly in the socio-economic, ecological and health fields, and their derived effects in the area of growth agents and genetically-engineered yield factors. The Council shall take a decision on this matter on the basis of the procedure laid down in Article 100a of the Treaty as amended by the Single Act.

* Complete text: COM(90) 0531 final

DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament
on the Commission proposal for a Council decision
amending Decision 90/218/EEC concerning the
administration of Bovine Somatotropin (BST)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the Council (COM(90) 0531 final)¹,
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty (C3-0007/91),
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development and the opinion of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection (A3-0007/91),
1. Approves the Commission proposal subject to Parliament's amendment and in accordance with the vote thereon;
 2. Calls on the Council to notify Parliament should it intend to depart from the text approved by Parliament;
 3. Asks to be consulted again should the Council intend to make substantial modifications to the Commission proposal;
 4. Instructs its President to forward this opinion to the Council and Commission.

¹ OJ No.

B

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The use of genetically engineered bovine somatotropin (BST) to increase the yield of dairy cows raises a heated debate as to the socio-economic and ecological consequences and the effects which it may have on human and animal health.

Despite the research which has been performed and in particular the assessments of bovine somatotropin, the period of time which has elapsed has not been sufficient for in-depth research to be carried out, as your rapporteur indicated in his first report.

BST is worse than a medicinal product. It is not necessary for the survival of man or animals.

In the context of measures to ban hormones, the new growth hormones recently arrived on the market are not covered by any legislative provisions. They do not fall within the field of application of any Community directive.

The Community should, furthermore, insist that imports of milk, meat and derived products from BST-treated animals from countries outside Europe should be banned. Appropriate labelling giving an exact indication of the products - medicaments, hormones or other products - used during production is also required. The ban on BST must therefore be maintained.