

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL

Program of work to be carried out in the veterinary, zootechnical and animal protection spheres; staff required for such work.

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Subject : Program of work to be carried out in the veterinary, zootechnical and animal protection spheres; staff required for such work.

Certain of the problems affecting agricultural production, namely market and structural problems, have often been raised in the Council and the Parliament and have had considerable repercussions on public opinion. Others are more technical and relate to the quality of agricultural production in the wider sense, in particular veterinary problems.

But these are very important :

- for free movement, since substantial barriers still exist within the Community;
- for public health protection and consumer protection, since the hygiene of animal products is extremely important in this context;
- finally, for relations between the Community and non-member countries.

From the point of view of public health, the quality of the livestock products marketed in the Community depends closely on the conditions of hygiene under which they were produced and the rules to be observed in this respect. There must be particular vigilance notably for the problem of residues (oestrogens, antibiotics, etc.).

These rules must also prevent any animal diseases from being transmitted to consumers; the best results are obtained by having healthy livestock.

To be fully effective, action taken at Community level in these fields must cover all stages of production, from the animal on the hoof to the processed products of animal origin.

The state of health of the livestock also has an important effect on the profitability of stock-farming; here the consumer's and the producer's interests coincide. The damage caused by epizootic diseases in animals is very heavy in terms of both producer losses and public expenditure. Brucellosis accounted for 80 000 000 u.a. per year in 1976. In the case of extremely contagious epizootic diseases, damage can quickly amount to very high sums, i.e. £27 million solely to compensate owners of animals destroyed during the foot-and-mouth disease epidemic in the United Kingdom in 1966-68 and FF 55 million of public expenditure during the short epidemic of foot-and-mouth disease in France in 1974.

These risks explain why the Member States traditionally pursue extremely cautious import policies. This accounts for the serious barriers which existed in intra-Community trade in live animals and livestock products at the time of entry into force of the Treaty and those which still persist where harmonization has not been completed. These barriers sometimes go as far as total prohibitions on imports. Even if, at an initial stage, they can be reduced and harmonized they can only be totally removed by more vigorous action to improve the state of health of Community livestock.

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It is clear, by virtue of their nature and scope, that initiatives to develop this field can only be taken at Community level and have a double objective :

- to progressively reduce existing barriers, which are numerous and important; until they are made to disappear;
- to improve the health situation, which will contribute to the realisation of the first objective, by suppressing a large proportion of the obstacles to trade (the relaxation of the guarantees required for trade and in consequence of checks).

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In its Opinions on proposals in this field the Parliament has on several occasions expressed itself in favour of these objectives, for example :

- by emphasizing the constant requirements as regards hygiene, animal health and consumer protection, which call for particularly stringent and progressive rules (OJ No C 36 of 12 April 1972, p. 13);
- by regretting that "the present state of harmonization in the areas of animal health ... still falls far short of conditions similar to those existing in a national market, although such a situation has for many years been called for and is expressly provided for in the Treaties" (OJ No C 93 of 7 August 1974, p.6);
- by considering that "only wideranging Community measures to combat contagious animal diseases can overcome the divergencies between the different national rules in the matter of the control and eradication of epizootic diseases" (OJ No C 6 of 10 January 1977, p. 141).

On 12 March 1968 the Council endorsed the three objectives of the Community veterinary policy when it adopted the Community veterinary programme :

- to guarantee sufficient protection of human and animal health within the Community,
- to apply specific Community veterinary rules to limit obstacles to the free movement of animals and animal products,
- to apply measures to control epizootic disease in order to limit resultant losses for Community agriculture and the public expenditure to which such disease gives rise;

With a view to attaining these objectives the Community has gradually developed a coherent Community policy giving priority to the most important sectors.

Action was first concentrated on the conditions of intra-Community trade. The main products (live animals, meat and meat products) were the subject of rules to ensure that product hygiene in trade was satisfactory and that the necessary guarantees reduced the danger of animal diseases spreading. The result of this approach is that the level of hygiene of products traded is generally higher than the hygiene level of the national production: a not entirely satisfactory situation from the point of view of consumer protection. For poultrymeat, therefore, the same rules were laid down in respect of trade as in respect of national production. However, this approach ran into practical difficulties which emphasize the need for progressive action which takes account of realities.

Moreover, in order to be truly effective, measures taken within the Community should be supplemented by measures applicable to imports from non-member countries. This was done in the case of certain live animals and meat.

In order to ensure the effectiveness of the measures taken, the Council gave the Commission extensive powers to inspect establishments both within the Community (poultrymeat and meat products) and in non-member countries (meat).

Lastly, the Community tackled the task of coordinating measures to combat animal diseases by adopting a Community programme for the eradication of brucellosis, tuberculosis and leucosis and by giving itself certain possibilities for action against exotic diseases.

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Although on the whole the results were positive, it must be admitted that some of the measures adopted have not yet been applied because of the staff shortage in the Commission division responsible for these matters.

Application of the Directive relating to non-member countries is far from being complete and so far no Community inspection has been carried out. The Community eradication programmes whose criteria were adopted by the Council in 1977 can only be implemented, as things stand, by abandoning other veterinary activities which are nevertheless of equal importance.

Not only should the existing legislation be applied, but work must continue to progress. Trade in other products now faced with considerable barriers should be harmonized at Community level (in particular milk, comminuted meat, meat in cuts of 3 kg); inspection should be extended to slaughterhouses and other meat-processing establishments in the Community; rules on medicinal feed should make it possible to ensure better consumer protection. Lastly, there should be new measures to ensure better coordination of the campaign against animal diseases and hence facilitate trade.

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Two areas linked to the veterinary sector are continuing to expand: animal protection and animal science.

In the first area, measures should be evolved to spare animals unnecessary suffering. The Parliament has expressed its views on the matter several times and the impact of these questions on public opinion is obvious. The Community has taken steps at international level as well as inside its own territory. Following a first Directive on the stunning of animals in 1974, rules relating to the international transport of animals were adopted in 1977. This action must be supplemented by measures to ensure that these rules are uniformly applied in the Community and by provisions relating to the protection of animals used in experiments and to the protection of animals in breeding establishments and in national transport.

In the second area, which is particularly important for the profitability of stock-farming, Community action was initiated by the adoption in 1977 of a Directive relating to pure-bred breeding animals of the bovine species. This measure should be followed up by the application of the Directive and the adoption of rules relating to the other animal species.

In recent years, Community activities have developed considerably, and as a consequence, the obligations of the Commission have increased without the adequate reinforcement of the staff available. This has provoked an increasingly greater imbalance between the volume of work to be accomplished and the means with which to do it.

To carry out the legal and political obligations entrusted to it by the Council and which are described in documents A and B attached hereto, the staff available at present (7A, 1B and 3C officials) is totally inadequate.

To accomplish the work already agreed upon alone, this staff should be increased:

- by reinforcing the existing Division by 5 A, 4 B and 3 C officials;
- by creating a division responsible for inspection, composed of a Head of Division, 6A, 4B, and 11C together with 17 temporary agents.

The grounds on which these requests are based are given in the attached document. Eventually, once the entire Directive relating to non-member countries has been applied and inspection is working smoothly, Community inspection could replace some of that now carried out by national inspection, which will lead to a corresponding reduction of the expenses now borne by Member States.

Moreover, the above request is made solely in order to carry out tasks already decided on.

The application of any new decisions will require a corresponding subsequent reinforcement (e.g. for the implementation of the Directive on milk and milk products and the extension of Community inspection to slaughterhouses in the Community). In forwarding its proposals the Commission will direct the Council's attention to the necessary requirements and, where necessary, with regard to the structure of the Community veterinary services.

It is therefore proposed that the Council:

- approves the guidelines indicated above and in the annexed document, guidelines which come perfectly within the lines already outlined by the Council in this matter, notably:
 - the progressive reduction of barriers to intra-Community trade of live animals and products of animal origin, in particular until frontier controls are abolished;
 - the development for this purpose of measures which not only apply within the Community, but equally to importations from Third Countries;
 - the improvement of the health situation, in particular by the application of control programmes for animal diseases;
 - the extension of harmonisation as rapidly as possible to all those fields in which it is necessary, especially because of existing barriers, including those of zootechnics legislation and the protection of animals.

- notes that the full and effective application of the acts adopted by the Council necessitates a global reinforcement of the staff of the Commission of 29A, 8B and 14C and that the Commission will submit the necessary budgetary proposals in the appropriate manner;
- invites the Commission to submit to it:
 - within three years of the introduction of inspection procedures, a report accompanied by proposals on the definitive guidelines to be adopted with regard to veterinary inspection.

HARMONISATION OF LEGISLATION IN VETERINARY,
ZOOTECNICAL AND ANIMAL PROTECTION SECTORS

I. PROGRESS REPORT

At present, on the basis of the Council Resolutions,
progress has been as follows :

1. In the veterinary sphere seven basic Directives have been adopted, some of which have been amended several times. They lay down rules in respect of the most important categories of meat and animals, governing both intra-Community trade and imports from non-member countries, the greatest progress having been made in the intra-Community sphere.

Thus, Regulations have been adopted in the following sectors :

- in respect of intra-Community trade :
 - fresh beef and veal, pigmeat, sheepmeat and goatmeat fresh meat of domestic solipeds¹;
 - animals of the bovine species and swine²;
 - fresh poultrymeat³;
 - meat products⁴;
- in respect of non-member countries :
 - fresh beef and veal, pigmeat, sheepmeat and goatmeat and fresh meat of domestic solipeds⁵;
 - animals of the bovine species and swine⁵;

¹ Consolidated version (OJ No C 189, 10.8.1975, p. 31)-Directive No 72/461/EEC 12.12.1972 (OJ No L 302, 31.12.1972, p. 24)

² Consolidated version (OJ No C 189, 10.8.1975, p.1)

³ Directive No 71/118/EEC, 15.2.1971 (OJ No L 55, 8.3.1971, p.23 amended in particular by Directive No 75/431/EEC, 10.7.1975 - OJ No L 192, 14.7.1975, p.6)

⁴ Directive No 77/99/EEC, 21.12.1976 (OJ No L 26, 31.1.1977, p. 85)

⁵ Directive No 72/462/EEC, 12.12.1972 (OJ No L 302, 31.12.1972, p. 28)

In addition, the Council has also entered on the second stage of veterinary activities aimed at safeguarding free movement in the Community by combating certain animal diseases; thus Community programmes were adopted for the eradication of brucellosis, tuberculosis and leukosis¹.

2. In the zootechnical sphere, two texts have been adopted:
 - a Directive on intra-Community trade in pure-bred breeding animals of the bovine species²;
 - a Decision setting up the Standing Zootechnical Committee³.
3. Two texts were also adopted in the animal protection sphere:
 - a Directive on the stunning of animals before slaughter⁴;
 - a Directive on the protection of animals during international transport⁵.

In addition measures have been taken to prepare for Community adherence to certain international Conventions.

Although it has never been possible to comply fully with the programmes laid down and the timetables fixed by the Council Resolution, the progress report is positive. A large share of the basic regulations have been adopted. What remains is to ensure their application and to supplement them by other regulations which have been agreed on.

It should be emphasised in this context that the Commission's activities change as harmonization progresses. Some years ago, the Commission was mainly involved in preparing proposals for the Council; at present, the most important part of the Commission's work is administering existing directives and it is clear that this aspect of its work will merely increase.

This factor must be taken into account in the work programme for future years.

II. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The Commission notes that its principal activities in this area derive mainly:

1. either from legal obligations (laid down formally by the Council in existing directives),

¹Dir. No 77/391/EEC, 17.5.1977 (OJ No L 145, 13.6.1977, p.44 and Dir.No 78/52/EEC)

²Dir. No 77/504/EEC, 25.7.1977 (OJ No L 206, 12.8.1977, p.8)

³Decision No 77/505/EEC, 25.7.1977 (OJ No L 206, 12.8.1977, p.11)

⁴Dir. No 74/577, 18.11.1974 (OJ No L 316, 26.11.1974, p.10)

⁵Dir. No 77/89/EEC, 18.7.1977 (OJ No L 200, 8.8.1977, p.10)

2. or from political commitments giving rise to the adoption of some texts by the Council (e.g. the extension of certain exemptions was only accepted on condition that the Commission propose and the Council adopt, within a specific period, rules governing foot-and-mouth disease and swine fever), or by the Commission (which must prepare a proposal on leukosis so as to terminate likewise exemptions granted to several Member States in this sphere).

The work referred to in point 1. above consists almost exclusively in administering the texts adopted by the Council and involves:

- legislative activities (introduction of the legislation necessary to apply the Directives); in some cases this is the Council's task, but in most cases however it is the Commission's responsibility in accordance with the procedure of the Standing Veterinary Committee;
- inspection visits in the veterinary sphere, also the responsibility of the Commission.

The activities referred to in point 2. above are of a legislative nature and consist mainly in preparing draft Regulations for the Council.

In the light of the policies outlined above, future activities should evolve according to the following plan, a distinction being made between legislative activities and inspection visits which, because of their special nature, must be dealt with separately.

A. Legislative activities

There are two types. The first concerns the administration by the Commission of existing texts; the other depends on decisions to be taken by the Council.

1. Administration by the Commission

a) In the veterinary sphere

The Directives adopted by the Council call for numerous implementing provisions. Thus for example, it is necessary to ensure in particular the administration:

- of Council Directive of 12 December 1972 on the arrangements applicable to imports from non-member countries which needs to be implemented by about twenty different instruments; two categories of instruments themselves give rise to numerous implementing texts since, for each non-member country authorised to export to the Community, the Commission must fix the veterinary inspection conditions to be applied and draw up a list of establishments authorised to export to the Community;

- the Directive on fresh poultrymeat;
- the Directive on meat products also calls for numerous implementing provisions;
- texts on the Community financing of brucellosis, tuberculosis and leukosis eradication programmes.

b) Zootechnical sphere

The Directive adopted on 25 July 1977 on pure-bred breeding animals of the bovine species, calls for several implementing rules concerning in particular aptitude tests, herd-books, certificates accompanying animals etc ...

c) Animal protection sphere

The Directive on the protection of animals during international transport requires certain provisions for its implementation, including the defining of implementing rules to be drawn up by the Commission and which must be the subject of a Council Decision before 18 July 1978.

By way of information for the Council all this work is listed in detail in Annex B to this Communication.

2. Instruments to be adopted by the Council

a) Veterinary

Projects concerning the milk sector where substantial barriers persist have already been submitted to the Council. When these texts have been adopted they will in their turn involve numerous administrative tasks.

In addition, there are some new Commission proposals to be submitted to the Council. These involve:

- measures implementing texts already adopted by the Council;
- measures linked to instruments already adopted and resulting from clearly formulated decisions, for which a timetable has been laid down, e.g. cold chain Directive (Council Directive of 10 July 1975 on poultrymeat (cf. Note 4 p. 2) and of 21 December 1976 on meat products (cf. Footnote 5 page 2); measures concerning swine fever and foot-and-mouth disease (Council Directive of 21.12.1976 amending Directives 64/432/EEC, 72/461/EEC and 72/462/EEC in the veterinary sphere¹; here, the Commission gives priority to the proposals to be submitted on swine fever and foot-and-mouth disease, since the present system whereby exemptions are granted to certain Member States only is to be replaced as rapidly as possible

¹Directive No 77/98/EEC of 21.12.1976 (OJ No L 26, 31.1.1977, p.81

by common rules for all Member States;

- amendments to existing directives;
- measures arising out of basic programmes adopted by the Council and which have been the subject of several reminders by the Council, the Parliament or a particular delegation, for example medicinal feedingstuffs.

b) Zootecnics

Harmonization should continue:

- measures implementing the instrument adopted by the Council: importation of breeding animals of the bovine species;
- the drafting of Regulations on intra-Community trade in pure-bred breeding animals of the pig species (a proposal will be transmitted to the Council in the near future), and subsequently of other species;
- rules governing artificial insemination.

c) Animal protection

On the adoption of the Directive on the stunning of animals before slaughter, the Council invited the Commission to undertake supplementary work designed to lead to new proposals.

The Directive on the protection of animals during international transport requires further provisions for its implementation, including implementing rules, which must be adopted by the Council before 18 July 1978, which means that the Commission must formulate a proposal before that date.

In addition the Community continues to take measures with a view to adhering to certain international Conventions, and also to developing a suitable Community system of rules in the animal protection sphere.

All these activities are listed in detail in Document A in annex to this Communication.

3. Staff required to execute legislative work

The present staff of the relevant Commission departments amounts to seven category A officials, including the Head of Division, among whom are five veterinarians. One category B official and three category C officials complete this staff.

For the legislative sector alone it is obvious that this staff is already insufficient.

In the veterinary sector, the backlog in legislative work has taken on disquieting proportions; the Commission recognises this and for this reason several delegations have brought the matter up within the Council of Ministers itself.

The animal protection sector is expanding and some Member States and the Parliament have made repeated requests that the Commission increase its activity in this sphere. It is already obvious that Commission staff numbers, unless increased, will be unable to deal satisfactorily with the obligations devolving on them in this sphere, or to take action in the near future on animal protection in stock farming as the German delegation has requested on several occasions.

The zootechnical sphere is at present beginning to get under way, by virtue of the occasional assistance of an expert who alone will be unable to cope with the necessary activities.

Thus to deal with legislative activities the relevant department of the Commission needs to be increased substantially by 5 A, 4 B and 3 C officials, the category A officials to be employed as follows :

- 2 for measures to eradicate animal diseases (in particular application of the provisions already adopted in respect of brucellosis, tuberculosis and leucosis);
- 1 for microbiological work arising out of the Directives on meat products, fresh poultry-meat and non-member countries;
- 1 for health work arising out of the Directives on non-member countries and meat products;
- 1 for legislation on zootechnics and for animal protection.

This estimate is a minimum estimate based on present circumstances :

application of existing Directives, preparation of new Directives. In the absence of such an increase in staff, the application of existing Directives cannot be guaranteed; in addition, no new proposal can be prepared.

B. Inspection visits, creation of a veterinary inspection service

1. The establishment of a veterinary inspection service is based on :

- a. a Council declaration made when adopting Directive 72/462/EEC of 12 December 1972 on health and veterinary inspection problems upon importation of bovine animals and swine and fresh meat from third countries. This declaration is worded as follows : "The Council invites the Commission to study the means to be employed so that the inspections referred to in Articles 5 and 27 may be carried out as soon as possible by veterinary experts from a Community service, and to present its proposals along these lines";
- b. a similar declaration made when adopting :
 - Council Directive 75/431/EEC of 10 July 1975 amending Directive 71/118/EEC on health problems affecting trade in fresh poultrymeat (ad Article 6);
 - Council Directive 77/99/EEC of 21 December 1976 on health problems effecting intra-Community trade in meat products (ad Article 7).

The aim of these Community checks is to ensure that the standards laid down in the various directives are applied and complied with and to ensure uniform application in all the various Member and non-member States. Uniform application is essential in order to achieve fully the aim of the harmonized provisions, i.e. to ensure the free movement of goods.

2. The Directive relating to non-member countries provides for two types of Community checks : one concerns the non-member countries themselves and the other the frontier posts situated in the various Member States through which animals and meat from non-member countries enter the territory of the Community.

It should be noted that, in accordance with the timetable fixed by the Council, the Commission should have adopted several measures in 1977 for the purpose of implementing the Directive relating to non-member countries within the time limits laid down. These measures should have included a considerable number of official

visits to non-member countries with a view to making any changes necessary in the List of countries which the Council has prepared and of which it has postponed publication pending the outcome of such investigations. The appropriate decisions should be taken before 1 January 1973, a deadline which cannot be met.

a. Checks in non-member countries

The aim of these checks is to follow developments in the animal health situation; they should also :

- provide the facts used as a basis for the approval of establishments (slaughterhouses, cutting plants, refrigeration plants) for exporting meat to the Community;
- make it possible to ensure that the detailed provisions on hygiene contained in the annexes to the Directive are observed.

b. Checks at frontier posts

The aim of these checks is to ensure that the installations and the operations carried out there comply with Community provisions. The importance of uniform application in this area becomes obvious when it is considered that these frontier posts must serve for all Member States.

3. Checks in connection with the Directive on poultrymeat

These checks concern the slaughter-houses and cutting plants which are approved for intra-Community trade; they should be in operation since 1 January 1976. Some delegations have urged the Commission on several occasions to commence such checks as rapidly as possible; Written Questions have also been submitted to the Commission in the same vein.

4. Checks in connection with the Directive on meat products

This Directive enters into force on 1 July 1979 and also provides for Community inspection of the approved establishments.

5. Staff necessary for the inspection service

Under no circumstances can the abovementioned checks be carried out by experts from the Member States. Owing to their regular nature such checks require the presence of permanent staff. It has already emerged on more than one occasion that the Member States found it extremely difficult to release officials for periods of up to several weeks. It would be almost impossible to surmount these difficulties if secondment were made permanent.

The Commission considers that the above tasks can only be performed by officials. The reports drawn up by the staff engaged in inspection visits will have a decisive influence on the decisions taken by the Commission (granting or withdrawal of approval for establishments, temporary suspension of imports from a non-member country, limitation of imports to certain categories of meat or animals, regionalization of imports, etc. ... and these decisions may depending on their content, appreciably affect relations between the Community and non-member countries. Furthermore, it is obvious that inspectors on mission in non-member countries will be regarded, to a certain extent, as Community representatives even in the absence of any brief to that effect.

It is clear that the Commission cannot judge and take responsibility for work carried out by persons who, if they were not part of its staff, would in fact be outside its authority. The task of organizing and carrying out such work can only be done by Commission officials.

However, while the Commission considers it necessary to have all the staff indicated above as soon as possible, it is not indispensable in the immediate future for all such staff to have the status of officials.

Before perfecting the Community inspection system, the Commission considers it appropriate to have an experimental period in which to set up the system, judge its efficiency and in this way collect information on which to base the precise and final decisions to be taken subsequently in this area. During this period of, say, three years, a mixed formula might be considered, i.e. a department composed of :

- a skeleton staff of officials,
- temporary staff,

including 24 grade A or equivalent staff, which number the Commission considers necessary to correctly discharge the tasks entrusted to it by the Council.

Before this period of three years expired, the Commission would report to the Council on the experience gained and would submit proposals on the definitive form of the inspection service.

The figure of 24 A officials given above can be explained as follows :

- a) estimate of the staff needed to carry out checks in non-member countries (of. B 2a) first and second indent above) is based on the following criteria:
 - the number of establishments subjected to routine visits. : about 1,500 (4,500 establishments at present approved by the Member States were counted; the figure of 1,500 is therefore an extremely reasonable estimate);
 - possibility of checking only one establishment per day on average;
 - one hundred days per year can be devoted to actual checks at the abovementioned establishments;
 - one hundred days considered necessary for administrative work proper, i.e. preparation of reports, meetings etc.;
 - the United States, which has long experience in inspecting establishments authorised to export to its territory, has provided for all establishments to be inspected at least once a year. In 1976 the service responsible for this task carried out 2,840 inspections at 1,084 establishments;

- the number of veterinary inspectors which the Member States have at present in all non-member countries from which they import meat was also taken into account.

On the basis of the above it can be deduced that a team of at least fifteen inspectors is necessary.

- b) As regards the checks in non-member countries provided for in point B 2 first phrase above, provision should be made for two inspectors needed to carry out animal health checks in the 44 non-member countries drawn up by the Council.
- c) As regards the checks at frontier posts (cf. B 2b) above) at least one inspector is necessary.
- d) As regards the checks to be made in connection with the Directive on poultrymeat (cf. B 3 above) using the same bases as before, and estimating the total number of slaughterhouses and cutting plants in the Communities at about 300, the number of inspectors required can be set at three.
- e) For checks to be carried out in connection with the Directive on meat products (cf. B 3 above) and although the exact number of establishments to be supervised is not yet known, a minimum of two inspectors will be necessary at the outset.
- f) to manage the whole of above activities, 1 official of A3 grade. Since the Commission does not consider it necessary for all the staff indicated above to have the status of officials, for the reasons given above it can be estimated that in the immediate future, of the people needed, the number of officials comprising the skeleton inspection staff should at the outset be a minimum of 7 A, 4 B and 11 C officials, namely:
- for the inspections to be carried out in connection with the Directive on non-member countries: 4 veterinarians between whom would be divided the following areas:
 - North America,
 - Central America and South America,
 - Europe,
 - Other non-member countries (in particular Australia, New Zealand and Africa)
- A veterinarian would also be responsible for the inspection of frontier posts.

- to deal with intra-Community checks: - one veterinarian

- four grade B officials responsible for the administrative and practical work involved in the organization and carrying out of inspections;
- one Head of Division responsible for managing all the above sectors;
- eleven grade C officials (which would include three clerical officers) responsible for typing and filing.

Temporary staff would fill the 17 other inspectors' posts needed. Their functions and the level at which they operate will differ from that of officials; these latter will have authority over them.

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In all of these measures, whether it be decisions to be adopted by itself or proposals which it will present to the Council, the Commission will take care to consider opinions on various aspects of Community policy in the areas in question. In particular the Commission agrees with the general approach of the principles outlined by the Italian delegation; the means needed to implement them will be decided as the measures are introduced.

The Commission will also pay the utmost attention, within the limits of its resources, to animal protection.

However, it must draw the Council's attention once again to the fact that all the envisaged measures, which for the main part constitute a legal obligation which is already binding, can only be carried out if sufficient resources are allocated to them. This matter has already been partly raised at Council level, in particular at the meeting of 11 October last in Luxembourg, at which several delegations offered to place some experts at the Commission's disposal for a specific period, so as to enable it to deal with

the more urgent work. It is clear that recourse to national experts, however effective it may be while it lasts, can represent only a temporary solution, whereas the problem is a permanent one and has taken on dimensions such that temporary or partial solutions are no longer sufficient.

It is this general problem which led the Council, at its meeting of 12 and 13 December 1977, when adopting the programmes for the eradication of brucellosis, tuberculosis and leukosis, to raise in clear terms the problem of the staff needed by the Commission.

DIVISION VI/H/2

VETERINARY, ZOOTECHNICAL, ANIMAL PROTECTION SPHERES

Legislative work

Reinforcement of existing division

Existing posts	New activities	Category		
		A	B	C
1 A/3	- Control and eradication of disease: brucellosis, tuberculosis, leucosis	1 A5 1 A7/6		
2 A/4 3 A/5 1 A/7	- Microbiological work arising out of the Directives on meat products, fresh poultrymeat and non-member countries.	1 A5		
<u>total A officials=7</u>	- Health work	1 A7		
1 B/2	- Zootechnical legislation and Animal protection	1 A5		
<u>total B officials=1</u>	- Keeping of records, information administrative work, miscellaneous.		4	
3 C secretaries	- Secretariat and clerical work			3
	<u>Total:</u>	5	4	3

Inspection visits, creation of a veterinary inspection service

Existing post	A official posts	Temporary A posts	B official posts	C official posts	
N O N E	1 A3 4 A/5-4	11 A/7-6			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - responsible for the management of the Division - 4 veterinarians responsible for inspections by geographical sector - inspection of slaughter-houses, cutting plants, refrigeration plants in non-member countries - animal health checks in non-member countries - checks at frontier posts - intra-Community checks - poultrymeat - checks on meat products in intra-Community trade - administrative and practical work - clerical and secretarial work
	1 A/5-4 1 A/5-4	2 A/7-6 4 A/7-6	4	11	
Total	7	17	4	11	

WORKING PROGRAMME TO BE CARRIED OUT IN THE SECTOR
FOR VETERINARY, ZOOTECHNICAL AND ANIMAL PROTECTION LEGISLATION

VETERINARY LEGISLATION

I. Proposals being examined by the Council

1. Directive on meat products - animal health problems.
2. Health requirements for raw milk and heat-treated milk destined for drinking purposes - two directive texts.
3. Modification of Directive 64/432 concerning brucellosis.

II. Proposals to be submitted to the Council - FIRST PRIORITY

4. Control of classical swine fever - Council Resolution 1968
5. Eradication of classical swine fever - Council Resolution 1968
6. Community rules for leukosis guarantees related to intra-Community trade of cattle. Amendment to Directive 64/432. Statement by the Commission in relation to a decision on leukosis of 23.12.1977.
7. Medicated feedingstuffs Council Resolution 1968 (no time limit). Council Resolution 1974 (time limit 1.1.1976)
8. Residues in fresh meat Application of Directive 72/462, Article 20(b). Introduction of rules for the home market. Council Resolution 1974 (time limit 1.1.1976)
9. Health problems affecting intra-Community trade in fresh meat and fresh poultrymeat which has been minced, ground or similarly chopped. Application of Directive 71/118, Article 15(a) (time limit 31.12.1976) and of Directive 77/99, Article 9.1 (time limit for Commission 1.1.1979 and adoption 1.7.1979).
10. Fresh meat of male pigs Report and proposal from the Commission to the Council. Application of Directive 64/433, Article 3.4(a).
11. Trichina-freedom in certain third countries. Report and proposal from the Commission to the Council (Directive 77/96)
12. The use of non-veterinary personnel for supervision of hygiene. Report and proposal from the Commission to the Council.
Application of Article 16(a) in Directive 71/118 and Article 20 in Directive 77/99 (time limit 31.12.1977)

13. Standardization of bovine and avian tuberculins. Report and if necessary proposal from the Commission to the Council. Amendment to Directive 64/432. Council Resolution 1974
14. Risk of infection in brucella-positive castrates Report and if necessary proposal from the Commission to the Council. Amendment to the Directive 64/432. Council Resolution 1974
15. Animal health measures for foot-and-mouth disease Rules for notification and tracing and for combating and stamping out, as well as other measures to be applied in emergency situations. Council Resolution 1968.
16. Communication from the Commission to the Council concerning the eventual affiliation of the Community to the International Convention for the Control of Spread of Major Communicable Fish Diseases
FAO/OIE initiative

II. Proposals to be submitted to the Council - SECOND PRIORITY

17. Community rules for the harmonization of the system of notification of important infectious diseases in domestic livestock. This text is intended to coordinate the application of the directives concerning Community plans for accelerated eradication of brucellosis, tuberculosis and leukosis in bovines, for diseases covered by Directives 64/432 and 72/462 and other important diseases which might fall within Community competence.
18. Infectious diseases not covered in Annex E of Directive 64/432. Amendment to this Directive.
19. Rules for establishment of enzootic free areas within the Community to reduce and eliminate veterinary control requirements affecting trade at the intra-Community level and on the home market.
20. Community rules for use of vaccines and sera in relation to control of important infectious diseases in domestic livestock, and for the coordination of measures to supply vaccines in the event of epizootics.
Council Resolution 1968.
21. Community rules for control of certain animal and human pathogens by eliminating or reducing certain bacteria, viruses and parasites in the environment of animals and animal products. Harmonization of national rules for treatment of feeding-stuffs (including swill), for hygiene in animal holdings, meat production establishments, dairies, rendering plants etc. Several points in Council Resolution 1968.

22. Study, report and if necessary proposals from the Commission to the Council concerning rules for veterinary hygiene control in poultry slaughterhouses, cutting plants and storage premises. First part of the report to be finished before 15.2.1979, final report before 1.1.1980. Application of Directive 71/118 Article 14a.
23. Examination and proposals from the Commission to the Council for application of Directive 77/99 on intra-Community trade in meat products, Articles 4.1, 12 and 14.
24. Health problems affecting intra-Community trade in meat products which have not undergone treatment fulfilling the requirements laid down in Annex A, Chapter V of Directive 77/99. Application of directive, Article 9.2. (time limit 1.7.1979)
25. Report and, if possible, proposal to amend Article 2(d) of Directive 77/99 on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in meat products in relation to treatments other than those listed.
26. Community rules on pieces of fresh meat of less than 3 kg. Amendment to Directive 64/433. Application of Directive 77/99 Article 9.1
27. The Cold Chain. Text for coordinated rules in relation to cold treatment of fresh meat, fresh poultrymeat and meat products, including temperatures of meat during cutting. Application of Directive 71/118, Article 15(b) (time limit 1.1.1978) and application of Directive 77/99, Article 13, and Annex 1.
28. The type and intensity of lighting in meat plants. Community rules for application of Directive 71/118, Article 15(b) (time limit 1.1.1978) and Directive 77/99.
29. Medical examination of staff in meat plants and their state of health. Report and proposal from the Commission to the Council in application of Directive 71/118, Article 16(a) (time limit 15.2.1980)
30. Level of training of assistants Application of Directive 71/118, Article 4.2. Council Resolution 1968
31. Animal health requirements for amending Directive 71/118 on health problems affecting trade in fresh poultrymeat.

32. Animal health and public health requirements for import of fresh poultrymeat from third countries.
Council Resolution 1974
33. Report and, if necessary, proposal from the Commission to the Council in relation to Directive 64/432, Article 4 (b) on FMD categories.
34. Report and, if necessary, proposals on Ireland's situation
Amendments to Directive 64/432 (time limit 31.12.1981)
35. Revision and amendments to Directives 64/432, 64/433, 71/118 and 72/462 to coordinate technical procedures.
36. Community rules for control of trichinae in relation to intra-Community trade.
Amendment to Directives 64/433 and 77/99.

IV. Proposals to be submitted to the Council - THIRD PRIORITY

Additional activities are to be developed to fulfil the programmes of 1968 and 1974. However, new developments have also to be taken into consideration. In particular the following proposals must be submitted to the Council:

- health requirements for raw milk destined for conversion into milk products, for eggs, for fish, molluscs and crustaceans;
- animal health requirements for live poultry, hatching eggs and day-old chicks, fish, horses, sheep, goats and live game.

ZOOTECNICAL LEGISLATIONI. Proposals to be submitted to the Council - FIRST PRIORITY

37. Community rules on pure-bred breeding animals of the porcine species

II. Proposals to be submitted to the Council - SECOND PRIORITY

38. Proposal from the Commission concerning Community provisions for the approval for breeding of pure-bred breeding animals of the bovine species, Directive 77/504, Article 3 (time limit 1.7.1980)

III. Proposals to be submitted to the Council - THIRD PRIORITY

39. Community rules for pure-bred breeding animals of the equine species

ANIMAL PROTECTION LEGISLATIONI. Proposals being examined by the Council

40. Protocol for adhesion of the Community to the Convention of the Council of Europe for the protection of animals in international transport
41. Conclusion by the Community of the Convention of the Council of Europe for the protection of animals kept for farming purposes

II. Proposals to be submitted to the Council - FIRST PRIORITY

42. Protection of animals in international transport
- Application of Directive 77/489, Article 7 (time limit for adoption 1.7.1978)
43. Coordination of the position of Member States in relation to international agreements concerning transportation of animals by air
44. Conclusion by the Community of the Convention of the Council of Europe for the protection of animals for slaughter

III. Proposals to be submitted to the Council - SECOND PRIORITY

45. Coordination of the position of Member States concerning the draft Convention of the Council of Europe for the protection of experimental animals
46. Community rules for the protection of animals kept for farming purposes

IV. Proposals to be submitted to the Council - THIRD PRIORITY

47. Community rules for the transport of animals in Member States
48. Community rules related to methods of stunning of animals before slaughter
49. Community rules for the protection of experimental animals

WORKING PROGRAMME TO BE CARRIED OUT IN THE SECTOR
FOR VETERINARY, ZOOTECHNICAL AND ANIMAL PROTECTION
LEGISLATION

These activities are additional to the working
programme described in Document A

I. LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES RELATED TO EXISTING VETERINARY DIRECTIVES

1. Application of Directive 72/462 on health and veterinary inspection problems upon importation of bovine animals and swine and fresh meat from third countries.

Animal health

- Article 2(m) List of contagious diseases, period and radius of the area. SVC*.
- Article 5 Frequency and procedure of inspections by veterinary experts. SVC.
Statements concerning Articles 5 and 6 in the Council minutes R 3031/76 (AGRI 821).
- Article 8.1 Animal health conditions for import of animals. SVC.
- Article 11.2 Certificate for third country imports of animals. SVC.
- Article 12.3 (c) List of diseases for which presence or suspicion of presence requires slaughter or destruction. SVC.
- Article 16 Animal health requirements for importation of meat. SVC.
- Article 22.2 Certificate for animal health requirements in relation to imports of meat from third countries. SVC.
- Article 24.3(a) The list of frontier posts approved to admit cattle and pigs from third countries. SVC.
- Article 27.5 Rules for expert control of frontier posts. SVC.

For the application of this directive, especially Article 8, a regular notification system for third country animal disease information should be set up. A register should be developed, and kept up-to-date.

*SVC-The decision is taken under the procedure of the Standing Veterinary Committee.

Public health

- Article 4.1 List of establishments approved for export of fresh meat to the Member States. SVC.
- Article 5 Frequency and procedure of on-the-spot inspections by veterinary experts. SVC.
- Article 17.3 Types of colouring substances for health marking. SVC.
- Article 18 Designation of slaughterhouses for production of half carcasses etc, cutting plants for smaller cuts and decision about warm deboning. SVC.
- Article 19(c) Approval of international organizations. SVC.
- Article 24.3 Uniformity of inspections, methods of sampling and analysis of meat on importation from third countries. SVC.
- Article 27.1(b) List of frontier posts approved to import fresh meat from third countries. SVC.
- Article 27.5 Appointment of veterinary experts and rules for control of frontier posts.

For the application of the directive, in particular Article 18, a register containing information about the approved slaughterhouses, cutting premises and cold stores in third countries should be established. Continuous collection of information in relation to meat and hygiene should be organized to make it possible for the Commission and the Member States to act immediately when problems develop.

2. Application of Directive 71/118 on health problems affecting trade in fresh poultrymeat.

- Article 3.1 A (e) Decision to amend or supplement requirements for health marking of carcasses and offals. SVC.
- Article 3.1 A (g) Procedure for suitable packing to be amended. SVC.
- Article 5.1 List of approved slaughterhouses and list of cutting premises. collected by the Commission and published in the Official Journal.
- Article 5(a) Regular on-the-spot inspection of establishments by veterinary experts. Provisions for implementation. SVC.
- Article 10 Panel of veterinary experts for formulation of opinions to be drawn up by the Commission together with establishment of general rules for the procedure.

Article 14 Study of hygiene requirements based on microbiological control of poultrymeat and of equipment and constructions in poultrymeat plants.

3. Application of Directive 64/432 on animal health problems affecting in Community trade in bovine animals and swine.

Article 9 The Commission's coordination activities in relation to epizootics. SVC.

4. Administration of the Directive 77/391 concerning Community plans for accelerated eradication of brucellosis, tuberculosis and leukosis in cattle

Article 9.2 Examination and approval of national plans. SVC.

Article 10 Regular on-the-spot checks to verify from a veterinary viewpoint whether the plans are being applied.

5. Application of Directive 64/433 on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in fresh meat

Article 4.3 Working procedure of veterinary experts.

6. Application of Directive 77/96 on the examination for trichinae upon importation from third countries of fresh meat derived from domestic swine

Article 2.5 Study of the financial effects resulting from trichina examination.

Article 4.1 List of approved slaughterhouses and cutting plants. SVC.

List of approved establishments for freezing treatment. SVC.

Article 6 On-the-spot inspection by veterinary experts.

Article 7 List of inspection posts, where examination and where freezing treatment may be carried out.

7. Proposal and decision concerning the use of auxiliary staff for inspections under the responsibility of a competent veterinarian. The solution is to be developed in a horizontal way to cover activities under several directives. SVC.

Directive 71/118 Article 5.2

Directive 77/96 Article 4.1

Directive 64/433 Article 3.8.3

Directive 72/462 Article 17.4 (a-d), Article 27.4

Directive 77/99 Article 6.2

Council Resolution 1968.

II. OTHER WORK IN THE VETERINARY FIELD

8. Secretariat of the Scientific Veterinary Commission.
9. A register of information on important infections (notifiable) diseases in domestic livestock shall be developed to gradually cover the needs of a systematic surveillance at Community level in application of Directives 64/432; 72/461 and 77.391.
10. Initiatives in view of the coordination of the control measures of Member States against rabies in order to improve their effectiveness.
11. Studies are carried out in cooperation with the Commission departments competent within this field, and with the division's own working groups. The studies are planned to facilitate development of legal texts; e.g. comparative studies on existing national veterinary legislation, comparison of different diagnostic and control methods (trichina, salmonella, poultry diseases, veterinary hygiene requirements) and disease epidemiology (e.g. exotic animal diseases, brucellosis, swine fever, FMD).
12. In the field of agricultural research veterinary projects are included (e.g. classical and African swine fever, avian lymphoid leukosis and Marek's disease, respiratory and intestinal infections in young cattle, pathways of spread of pathogens in the environment of large animal holdings).

The research activity is of a long-term nature but the plans are structured to contribute to solution of technical questions in relation to Community legislation in the veterinary field and the results are currently being used by the working groups preparing veterinary legislation.
13. Study and development of a report concerning the methods and procedures in veterinary hygiene control of microbiological methods for control of hygiene in poultrymeat - Directive 71/118 Articles 14.1 and 14 (a) 1.
14. Coordination of the position of the Member States and participation in the work of international organizations concerning the elaboration of an agreement on technical matters, especially where the existing Community veterinary legislation gives competence to the EEC, in particular OIE, FAO/WHO- Codex Alimentarius, Council of Europe - Conventions on protection of animals and Convention on Pharmacopoeia Eur. (Committee on veterinary vaccines, ATP (EC/UN)).

This activity has resulted in an ever-increasing amount of work.

15. The Commission participates through its connections with FAO and OIE in activities in certain third countries, where severe epizootics appear, in internationally organized actions to control diseases like FMD (non-European types) in Turkey. Financial support for the increase in Turkish production of FMD vaccine in a new institute in Ankara has been made available.

III. LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES RELATED TO EXISTING ZOOTECHNICAL DIRECTIVES

16. Application of Directive 77/504 on pure-bred breeding animals of the bovine species:

Article 6.1

Decisions concerning

- performance monitoring methods and methods for assessing cattle's genetic value,
- the criteria governing recognition of breeders' organizations and associations,
- the criteria governing the establishment of herd-books,
- the criteria governing entry in herd-books,
- the particulars to be shown on the pedigree certificate.

Technical preparations

Study on the national rules for admission into the breeding activities of pure-bred breeding animals.
Plans for establishing a specimen certificate.
Establishment of common methods for evaluation of the characteristics of bovine breeding animals (milk yield, growth rate, testing systems etc)
Criteria for approval of breeders' organizations.
Criteria for herd books and the entry of animals in the herd book.

17. Plans for Community rules on the artificial insemination procedures in domestic livestock.

IV. LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES RELATED TO EXISTING ANIMAL PROTECTION DIRECTIVES

- 18 Application of Directive 74/577 concerning stunning of animals before slaughter.

A study is being carried out to develop more precise methods of evaluating different methods and equipment used for stunning.

V. PERMANENT CONTROL ACTIVITIES IN APPLICATION OF DIRECTIVES IN THE FIELD

VETERINARY LEGISLATION

1. Animal health inspections in third countries.
2. Inspection of slaughterhouses, cutting plants and cold stores approved for export to the Community.
3. Inspection of frontier posts approved for importing fresh meat to the Community.
4. Inspection of slaughterhouses and cutting plants producing fresh poultrymeat within the Member States.
5. Inspection of meat production establishments within the Member States.