

# COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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Brussels, 26 April 1974

## COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL

Council Resolution concerning animal and plant health and animal nutrition

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1. When the Council adopted the timetable for its industrial policy programme in the foodstuffs sector, it invited the Commission to submit to it as soon as possible a similar timetable for the approximation of laws in other sectors of agriculture and food production.

This is the subject of this Communication.

2. In its Resolution of 12 March 1968 (OJ No. C 22, 18 March 1968), on Community measures to be taken in the veterinary sector, the Council established a programme of work which is basically still valid and of which a substantial portion has already been carried through.

Thus so far, health Directives have been adopted on:

- bovine animals and swine
- fresh meat from domestic bovine animals, swine, sheep, goats and solipeds;
- fresh poultry meat
- Community rules for imports of live animals and fresh meat from non-Member countries.

In the coming years work must be directed mainly towards removing the remaining barriers to intra-Community trade in the most important products and implementing the arrangements concerning imports from non-Member countries.

But the complete removal of barriers to intra-Community trade can obviously be achieved only if health inspection arrangements are harmonised. The first steps towards a joint system of health protection in emergencies are to be decided on shortly.

Further progress towards harmonization in this sector could also be achieved by examining the problems arising in connection with the provisions of the Accession Treaty and with any instruments adopted subsequently by the Council in this sphere.

In the zootechnic sector, the development of a medium-term programme depends on the technical resources available to the Commission's departments.

Finally, the removal of barriers to trade must also involve the approximation of national laws on animal protection.

3. With regard to plant health, apart from the three Directives on measures to combat certain organisms which are particularly harmful to plants, all the proposals submitted to the Council are still under discussion there.

Two main courses of action are required:

- adoption of provisions of health arrangements applicable to trade in plants and plant products; this should lead to the removal of the main barriers created by plant health protection measures;
- adoption of provisions on pesticides and their residues on and in agricultural produce.

4. As regards animal nutrition, the whole important field of permitted additives and undesirable substances is already harmonized and the system requires only a few minor adjustments.

In order to permit the removal of the remaining barriers and to give full effect to the harmonized arrangements already adopted, provisions are required on the marketing of straight and compound feeding-stuffs.

5. The approximation of laws on seeds and seedlings for use in agriculture, horticulture and forestry, and on reproductive material for vines is almost complete. No more than a few minor adjustments are required.

6. Although the free circulation of products has been the basic objective of measures taken so far, future measures must also be directed towards specific objectives in each of the fields concerned, in particular: protection of public health, protection of the consumer, protection of animals and plant conservation. In view of the urgency and importance of harmonization in these fields for the smooth operation of the common market, the Commission has prepared the attached programme, which covers a series of proposals now being examined in the Council, or proposals to be forwarded to the Council at a future date. The Commission therefore proposes that the Council should adopt

the attached proposed draft Resolution. The programme may obviously have to undergo changes as the situation itself evolves. Furthermore, it does not cover all the amendments proposed to existing Directives; these could well include proposals by the Commission for an easing of controls, particularly in the veterinary sector.

7. The Commission proposes that the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee be invited to give their opinions on the attached draft.

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a Council Resolution concerning animal and  
plant health and animal nutrition

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to Communication from the Commission of

Considering that a timetable for the removal of technical barriers to trade in foodstuffs was adopted in the Council Resolution of 17 December 1973 on industrial policy;<sup>(1)</sup>

AGREES, with a view to the implementation of a further section of the programme drawn up by the Council Resolution of 12 March 1968 on Community measures to be taken in the veterinary sector and to the speeding up of the work relating to the approximation of laws in the fields of plant health and animal nutrition, to adopt the timetable set out hereunder.

This timetable is of a flexible nature and may be modified by the Council, on a proposal from the Commission, so as to take account of any changes in priority which might prove necessary during its implementation.

The Commission will refer the matter to the Council whenever it becomes apparent, from the information at its disposal, that it may not be possible to adhere to the timetable.

The Commission will report annually on the implementation of this Resolution.

Accordingly,

THE COUNCIL

- undertakes to make every effort to act on the proposals listed in the Annexes in accordance with the schedule proposed;
- instructs the Committee of Permanent Representatives to take all the appropriate practical steps to facilitate the implementation of this Resolution;

ANNEX I

Veterinary and zootchnic sectors

I. Proposals to be adopted by the Council before 31 July 1974

- health and health inspection arrangements relative to raw whole milk and heat-processed milk
- stunning of animals before slaughter
- EEC financial contribution to FAO for campaign against foot and mouth disease.

II. Proposals to be adopted by the Council before 1 January 1975

- health and health inspection problems relating to intra-Community trade in meat-based products
- preparation of a list of non-Member countries authorized to export to the Community
- financial measures by the Community in certain emergency situations
- amendment of the Directive on fresh poultrymeat
- zootchnic standards applicable to pure-bred breeding cattle and establishment of a Standing Committee on Zootechnics.

III. Proposals to be adopted by the Council before 1 January 1976

- setting of accepted tolerance levels for residues of certain substances in fresh meat
- determination of the method and procedures for detecting trichina
- medicated feeding-stuffs
- intra-Community trade in live poultry, hatching eggs and day-old chicks.

IV. Proposals to be adopted by the Council before 1 January 1977

- health arrangements applicable to imports of fresh poultrymeat from non-Member countries;

- any proposals accompanying the Commission's report to the Council on the situation in the Community as a whole, submitted in connection with Articles 104 and 105 of the Treaty of Accession.
- health problems relating to intra-Community trade in egg products
- imports of live poultry, day-old chicks and hatching eggs from non-Member countries.

ANNEX 2

Plant health

I. Proposals to be adopted by the Council before 31 July 1974

- Provisions to prevent the introduction into the Member States of organisms harmful to plants
- Tolerance levels for pesticide residues on and in fruit and vegetables (first stage).

II. Proposals to be adopted by the Council before 1 January 1975

- Measures to combat carnation leaf-roll
- Tolerance levels for residues of pesticides on and in unprocessed cereals.

III. Proposals to be adopted by the Council before 1 January 1976

- Tolerance levels for residues of pesticides

(a) on and in foodstuffs of animal origin

(b) on and in animal feeding-stuffs

- Type approval of pesticides.

IV. Proposals to be adopted by the Council before 1 January 1977

- Tolerance levels for residues of pesticides on and in fruit and vegetables (second stage).

V. Proposals to be adopted by the Council before 1 January 1978

- Tolerance levels for pesticide residues

(a) in vegetable oils and fats

(b) on and in tobacco.

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ANNEX 3

Animal nutrition

I. Proposal to be adopted by the Council before 31 July 1974

Marketing of straight feeding-stuffs.

II. Proposals to be adopted by the Council before 1 January 1975

- Marketing of compound feeding-stuffs

- Amendments to the Directive of 23 November 1970 on additives.