

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(79) 5 final

Brussels, 19 January 1979

Proposal for a
COUNCIL DECISION

on financial contribution from the Community to
Spain for the eradication of African Swine Fever

(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

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EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

African swine fever is a highly contagious disease transmitted not only by the animals themselves but by meat and even the scraps very often used to feed pigs and is thus very dangerous as far as livestock is concerned. There is no vaccine available and the only effective protective measures, most commonly slaughter, are very costly.

The presence of African swine fever in Spain is thus a permanently serious threat to the Community's pig herd. In the past the disease has three times affected parts of France and has also reached Italy where it rapidly took on the proportions of an epidemic. Both countries had to take very severe action to get rid of the disease. At the moment it is again present in Sardinia.

Because of the ease with which it is transmitted the best protection for the Community is to eliminate it totally from adjacent countries, concentrating on Spain. It is indispensable that this be done as quickly as possible. The possible extension of the Community makes it essential to clarify the situation in Spain with regard to the disease. Further Spain's experience of the disease makes it the most capable of devising a new plan for progressively eradicating it by creating disease-free areas which will also serve as buffer areas to protect the Community.

It is for these reasons that the purpose of this decision is, in response to Spain's request, to help her draw up and apply a plan for eradicating African swine fever. The Community contribution is conditional on certain action being taken that will guarantee the effectiveness of the plan. The splitting of the money into annual instalments will enable the implementation of the plan to be followed and any desirable changes made as the situation develops, the general aim being to eradicate African swine fever completely from Spain within five years.

In order to ensure that the object being pursued, i.e. eradication of African swine fever from the entire Iberian Peninsula, is effectively and lastingly achieved, the Commission could aid an eradication scheme in Portugal. A concrete proposal on aid for Portugal will be submitted as soon as possible.

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to Spain for the eradication of African Swine
Fever.

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 the Community should take all appropriate measures to ensure its protection against the appearance of African swine fever on its territory;

Whereas to this end the Community has undertaken, and continues to undertake, action designed to contain outbreaks of this type of disease far from its frontiers by helping afflicted countries to strengthen their preventive measures; whereas for this purpose Community subsidies have already been granted to Spain;

Whereas these measures have unquestionably made an effective contribution to the protection of Community livestock, especially through the creation and maintenance of a buffer-zone north of the river Ebro;

Whereas, however, in the opinion of the Spanish authorities themselves, the measures so far implemented must be reinforced if the fundamental objective of eradicating the disease from the entire country is to be achieved;

Whereas the Spanish authorities have asked the Community to contribute to the expenses required for the efficient implementation of a total eradication programme;

Whereas a favourable reply should be given to this request by granting a subsidy to Spain, having regard to the undertaking given by that country to protect the Community against African swine fever and to eliminate completely this disease by the end of a five year eradication plan;

Whereas the establishment of this eradication plan must include certain measures which guarantee the effectiveness of the action taken, and it must be possible to adapt these measures to the evolution of the situation, by means of a procedure establishing close and effective cooperation between the Member States and the Commission;

Whereas it is necessary to keep the Member States regularly informed as to the progress of the action undertaken;

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS :

Article 1

The Community shall contribute financially to the eradication of African Swine Fever in Spain.

Article 2

The contribution shall be given on the condition that the Spanish authorities establish an eradication plan approved in accordance with Article 4, satisfying the requirements of Article 3 and designed to result in the elimination of the disease within 5 years.

This plan must be put into operation before 1 July 1979.

Article 3

The eradication plan mentioned in Article 2 must include the immediate slaughter and destruction of the pigs on all holdings where a case of African Swine Fever is diagnosed and in those holdings which as a result of an epidemiological enquiry can be considered as contaminated and in addition provide for

- a) the disinfection of, and elimination of insects and vermin from the holding after the elimination of the pigs,
- b) a delay before repopulation of clean holdings and a health control of pigs before they are introduced into these holdings,
- c) the establishment throughout the country of a strict movement control of pigs, including those destined for slaughter,
- d) the obligation to slaughter pigs in establishments under permanent veterinary control,
- e) the creation of disease-free zones and their protection by the development of integrated pig-farming enterprises or if necessary the establishment of a control of the pig population of these enterprises by means of observation quarantine of animals at the place of origin and their integration into the herd only after a further period of observation in isolation on arrival of a consignment,
- f) the protection of disease-free zones by the strict control of the movement of pigs into these zones whatever their destination and by a prohibition on the straying of pigs and on pig markets,

- g) the compensation given for slaughter to be calculated in such a way that farmers are appropriately compensated.

Article 4

After examination of the plan presented by the Spanish authorities and of any amendments to be made thereto, the Commission shall decide, in accordance with the procedure provided for in Article 5, upon its approval.

Article 5

1. Where the procedure laid down in this Article is to be used, the matter shall be referred by the Chairman, either on his own initiative or at the request of a Member State to the Standing Veterinary Committee. (hereinafter referred to as 'the Committee') set up by the Council Decision of 15 October 1968.
2. Within the Committee, the votes of the Member States shall be weighted as provided in Article 148 (2) of the Treaty. The Chairman shall not vote.
3. The Commission representative shall submit a draft of the measures to be adopted. The Committee shall deliver its opinion on the measures within a period to be determined by the Chairman having regard to the urgency of the question submitted for examination. Opinions shall be delivered by a majority of 41 votes.
4. The Commission shall adopt the measures and shall implement them immediately, where they are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee. Where they 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 on the measures to be adopted. The Council shall act thereon by a qualified majority.

If the Council has not adopted any measures within three months from the date on which the proposal was submitted to it, the Commission shall adopt the proposed measures and apply them immediately.

Article 6

1. The envisaged assistance of the Community is estimated at 10 million European Units of Account for the period under consideration.
2. Payments shall be made, within the limits of the budgetary appropriations, by annual instalments on presentation to the Commission of the relevant supporting documents.

Article 7

1. The Commission shall follow the development of African Swine Fever in Spain and the implementation of the eradication plan. It shall regularly inform, at least once a year, the Member States within the Standing Veterinary Committee of this development, in the light of the information given by the Spanish Authorities and of any the reports of Commission experts making on the spot visits.
2. The Commission may suspend Community aid if it considers this justified having regard to the development of the situation and of the results obtained.
3. Amendments made by the Spanish Authorities to the plan as initially approved must also be approved in accordance with Article 4.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council

The President

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

1. Budget heading :

Article 310

Item 3101

2. Title of heading :

EEC participation in measures to combat African swine fever, in-field operations.

3. Legal basis :

Council Decision.

4. Nature of action :

An operation to protect the Community against African swine fever, which has been present in the Iberian peninsula for many years, has caused damage in France and is perhaps the origin of other large-scale outbreaks in the Community, particularly in Sardinia this year.

Spain, as she has requested, will be given financial assistance for a programme for the total eradication of the disease. The programme will require the Commission's prior approval and payment of the annual instalments of the aid will be conditional on rigorous implementation of it.

5. Cost in EUA :

Payment of a total aid of 10 million EUA over five years in annual instalments from 1979 to 1983. If it is possible to pay the first instalment in 1979 1 million EUA entered for this measure in Chapter 100 will have to be transferred to item 3101.

Calculation :

The total aid is roughly 10% of the cost of the program, which on present estimates will be around 9 000 million pesetas.

6. Control :

Possibly an on-the-spot visit; report presented to the Standing Veterinary Committee.

