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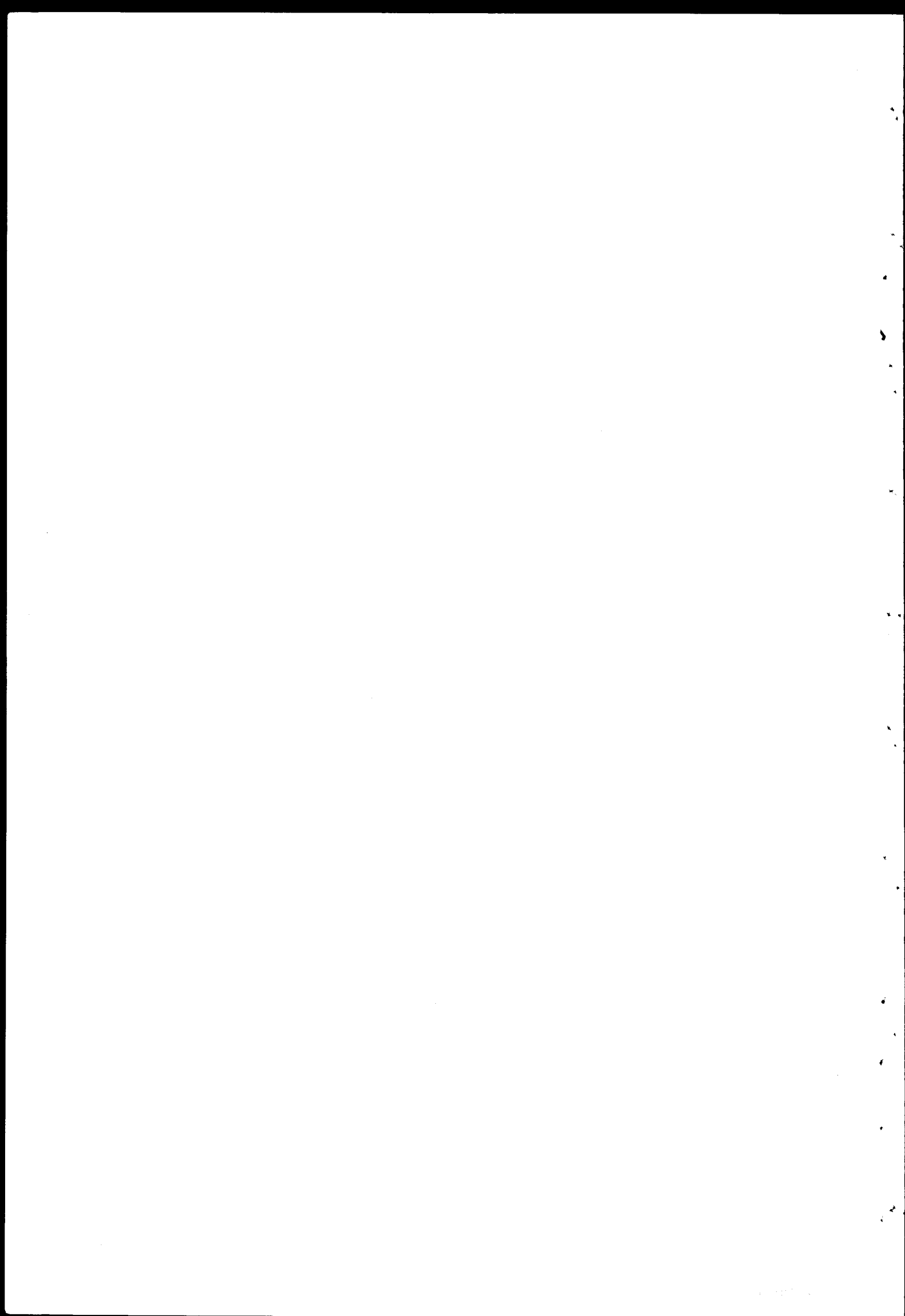
drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture

on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the
Council (Doc. 82/75) for a decision on measures against foot and mouth disease

Rapporteur: Mr C. NEY

1.2.2

PE 40.861/fin



By letter of 28 April 1975 the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty, to deliver an opinion on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a decision on measures against foot and mouth disease.

The President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Agriculture as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Public Health and the Environment and the Committee on Budgets for their opinions.

On 22 May 1975 the Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr Ney rapporteur.

It considered this proposal at its meeting of 3 and 4 June 1975 and unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution and the explanatory statement.

Present: Mr Vetrone, vice-chairman and acting chairman; Mr Laban, vice-chairman; Mr Ney, rapporteur; Mr Boano, Mr Della Briotta, Mr Frehsee, Mr Früh, Mr Hansen, Mr De Koning, Mr Martens, Lord St. Oswald.

The opinions of the Committee on Public Health and the Environment and the Committee on Budgets are attached.

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The Committee on Agriculture hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution together with explanatory statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a decision on measures against foot and mouth disease.

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council,¹
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the Treaty establishing the EEC (Doc. 82/75),
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and the opinion of the Committee on Public Health and the Environment and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (Doc. 132/75),
1. Approves the proposal from the Commission.
 2. Nevertheless requests the Commission to adopt the following change, pursuant to the second paragraph of Article 149 of the EEC Treaty.

¹OJ No. C 101, 3.5.1975, p.9

Proposal for a Council decision
on measures against foot-and-mouth disease

preamble and recitals unchanged

Article 1 unchanged

Article 2

The Commission shall supervise the utilization of the sums provided for in Article 1 and shall submit a report to the Council on the implementation of this Decision.

Article 2

The Commission shall supervise the utilization of the sums provided for in Article 1 and shall submit a report to the Council and to the European Parliament on the implementation of this Decision.

Article 3 unchanged

¹For full text see OJ No. C 101, 3.5.1975, p.9

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. Following a request by the FAO, this proposal provides for a financial contribution from the EEC for the purchase of vaccine to be used in the buffer zones set up along the frontiers between Greece and Turkey and Bulgaria and Turkey to prevent the spread of exotic foot and mouth viruses to other European countries and, consequently, to the territory of the Community.
2. These areas, to the south-east of the Community, have suffered several times in the past from outbreaks of disease caused by exotic types of virus. The need to protect the territory of the Community is all the more urgent in that Community livestock is not vaccinated against exotic foot and mouth viruses and is, therefore, particularly vulnerable to the spread of such types of virus.
3. It is clearly in the interests of European states and the countries of south-east Europe to take measures in cooperation with the FAO to combat these types of virus and to maintain along the frontiers between Greece and Turkey and Bulgaria and Turkey buffer zones in which cattle will be immunized against the foot and mouth disease caused by exotic types of virus.
4. The Commission proposes making available to the FAO a sum of 280,000 u.a. This sum corresponds to the amount requested from the Community by the FAO after deduction of the value of the vaccines recently made available to the FAO from Community vaccine reserves against exotic foot and mouth viruses set up by the Council decision of 26 March 1973 on action to protect Community livestock against certain foot and mouth diseases.¹

Article 5 of that decision provides for the possibility of donations of vaccine from Community reserves to third countries affected by an exotic foot and mouth virus where the health situation within the Community so permits.

¹ cf. OJ L 106/26, 20.4.1973

These reserves enable Member States to combat the first attacks immediately without waiting for the necessary vaccine to be produced by their own laboratories.

5. The operation to which this proposal refers would be supervised and controlled by a tripartite committee of delegates from the FAO, the International Office of Exotic Diseases and the EEC. The parties concerned would cooperate closely within this committee and an agreement has already been reached on the methods of implementing the measures concerned.

The Committee on Agriculture welcomes these measures taken in co-operation with the FAO, since their importance for the health of livestock both within and outside the Community is self-evident.

6. Your committee points out that it considers it unusual for a measure taken outside the Community to be financed entirely by the Community, while measures taken within the Community are financed only partly from Community funds.

The Committee on Agriculture draws attention to this curious distinction between measures taken outside and within the Community. Moreover, it considers that it would be useful if the Commission also submitted to Parliament a report on the implementation of this decision.

Finally, your committee has one comment on a matter of principle to make in respect of the proposed financing. It repeats that in general it considers a more transparent method of financing preferable to the transfer of an appropriation from one chapter to another of the general budget as proposed by the Commission.

7. Given that in this case the proposal concerns a transfer from a chapter on expenditure not specifically provided for, i.e., the appropriation is already available, the committee is not opposed to the procedure and approves the proposal for a decision.

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Letter from the chairman of the committee to Mr HOUDET,
chairman of the Committee on Agriculture.

Luxembourg, 28 May 1975

Dear Mr Chairman,

At its meeting of 27 May, the Committee on Public Health and the Environment considered the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities for a Council decision on measures against foot-and-mouth disease (Doc. 82/75).

The Committee on Public Health and the Environment wishes to draw attention to two reports by Mr Durand, on behalf of the Committee on Social Affairs and Public Health (Doc. 258/72 and 325/72), on the proposals from the Commission to the Council:

- for a decision concerning measures to protect livestock in the Community against foot-and-mouth disease (Doc. 173/72);
- for a decision concerning measures against foot-and-mouth disease (Doc. 314/72);

in which attention is drawn to the importance of these measures with a view to protecting Europe against the risk of the spread of foot-and-mouth disease from a foreign virus.

Article 2 of the proposal for a Council decision makes the Commission responsible for supervising the utilization of the sum of 280,000 u.a. and stipulates that it must submit a report to the Council on the implementation of this decision.

The Committee on Public Health and the Environment hopes also that the Commission will report to the European Parliament on the measures taken. Article 2 could therefore be supplemented as follows:

'The Commission shall supervise the utilization of the sum provided for in Article 1 and shall submit a report to the Council and European Parliament on the implementation of this decision.'

Subject to the above observation, the Committee on Public Health and the Environment unanimously approves the Commission's proposal and requests the committee responsible to treat this letter as an opinion in response to the referral of 28 April 1975.

(sgd) L. DELLA BRIOTTA

Present: Mr Jakobsen, vice-chairman, acting chairman and deputy rapporteur; Lord Bethell, Mr Didier, Mr Hansen, Mr Martens, Mr Ney, Mr Noè, Mr Scelba (deputizing for Mr Rosati), Mr Spicer, Mr Springorum, Lord St. Oswald (deputizing for Mr Creed).

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS

Letter from the chairman of the committee to Mr HOUDET, chairman of the
Committee on Agriculture

Luxembourg, 22 May 1975

Dear Mr Houdet,

At its meeting of 21/22 May 1975, the Committee on Budgets¹ considered the proposal for a Council decision on measures against foot-and-mouth disease (Doc. 82/75).

It noted that the FAO had requested a financial contribution from the Community in respect of its action against exotic virus foot-and-mouth disease in the countries of South-East Europe.

The vaccination considered necessary by the FAO in these countries at the present time requires 2.5 million doses of vaccine, which the Commission wishes to provide partly from the Community's reserves (1,050,000 doses) and partly by a cash payment (US \$370,000).

The Commission estimates the financial contribution from the Community budget as 280,000 u.a., and it proposes to submit to the Council in the very near future a transfer of appropriations to that amount from Chapter 99 'Expenditure not specifically provided for' to Item 3103 'Contribution to the FAO for the campaign against foot-and-mouth disease outside the Community' (for which a token entry has already been made).

The Committee on Budgets has no reservations as regards the Commission's proposal, since Article 2 of the decision stipulates that the Commission will supervise the utilization of the sum provided.

(sgd.) Erwin Lange

¹Present: Mr Lange, chairman; Mr Artzinger, Mr Fabbrini, Mr Früh, Mr Gerlach, Mr Lautenschlager, Lord Lothian, Mr Notenboom, Mr Pêtre, Mr Radoux, Mr Schmidt, Mr Shaw and Mr Yeats

