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Working Documents

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DOCUMENT 277/75

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture

on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 178/75) for a decision concerning a financial contribution by the Community to the Foot-and-Mouth Disease Institute in Ankara

Rapporteur: Mr C. NEY

PE 41.165/fin.



By letter of 30 June 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 concerning a financial contribution by the Community to the Foot-and-Mouth Disease Institute in Ankara.

On 7 July 1975 the President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Agriculture as the committee responsible and the Committee on Budgets asked for its opinion.

The Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr Ney rapporteur on 9 July 1975.

It considered this proposal at its meeting of 16 and 17 September 1975.

At the same meeting the committee unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution and explanatory statement.

The following were present: Mr Houdet, chairman; Mr Vetrone and Mr Laban, vice-chairmen; Mr Ney, rapporteur; Mr Bourdellès, Mr Brégégère, Mrs Dunwoody, Mr Durieux (deputizing for Mr Baas), Mr Frehsee, Mr Hughes, Mr de Koning, Mr Kofoed, Mr Ligios, Mr Martens, Mr McDonald, Mr Scott-Hopkins and Lord Walston.

The opinion of the Committee on Budgets will be published separately.

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A

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 concerning a financial contribution by the Community to the Foot-and-Mouth Disease Institute in Ankara

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council¹,
- having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the Treaty establishing the EEC (Doc. 178/75),
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (Doc. 277/75),

1. Approves the proposal from the Commission;
2. Requests that proposals concerning the containment of foot-and-mouth disease in South East Europe be placed where possible, and following consultation with the FAO, into a coherent programme to allow for the proper consultation of the European Parliament;
3. Nevertheless requests the Commission to adopt the following change, pursuant to the second paragraph of Article 149 of the EEC Treaty.

¹ O.J. No C 147, 2.7.1975, p. 12.

Proposal for a Council decision
concerning a financial contribution by the Community
to the Foot-and-Mouth Disease Institute in Ankara

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.

¹ For full text see OJ No. C 147, 2.7.1975, p. 12

EXPLANATORY STATEMENTThe purpose of the Commission's proposal

1. The purpose of the Commission's proposal is to contribute to the protection of the territory of the Community against exotic foot-and-mouth viruses, by means of a financial contribution to the costs of equipping the Foot-and-Mouth Disease Institute in Ankara, so strengthening and extending a buffer zone in Western Turkey.

Protection of the Community against exotic foot-and-mouth viruses

2. Community cattle have no vaccine protection against exotic foot-and-mouth viruses; in fact such vaccination is forbidden throughout the Community.

3. The principal protection of the Community against such diseases has been cooperation with other states to contain viruses far from Community territory. To this end, the Community has participated financially in the struggle against foot-and-mouth disease by subsidising vaccine stocks in South East Europe, and particularly in Turkey. The principal objective has been to establish a buffer zone in Turkish Thrace, which is considered the main route for the spread of such viruses into Western and Central Europe.

4. To this effect, the Community has contributed to FAO programmes in South East Europe to the following amounts :

1963	1,508,762
1964-1966	875,000
1968	360,000
1973	600,000
	3,343,762 US dollars

In addition, for 1974 and 1975, 1,800,000 doses of Asia 1 and Asia 22 vaccine (of a value of \$500,000) from Community stocks were placed at the disposal of the FAO.

In June 1975 the European Parliament was called upon to give its opinion on a Commission proposal to make available to the FAO a sum of 280,000 u.a. for the purchase of vaccine¹.

5. The Commission now proposes, following a further request from the FAO, to contribute to equipping the Foot-and-Mouth Disease Institute in Ankara so that this disease may be controlled and eradicated by means of a vaccine produced in that institute. This action is required by the fact that Turkey does not have sufficient means at its disposal at present.

¹ Doc. 82/75 and Doc. 132/75

6. Such expenditure is intended to render Turkey self-sufficient in combatting foot-and-mouth disease. Once achieved, the piecemeal aid programmes of the Community will no longer be required : substantial expenditure at the moment should avoid a greater total amount at a later date. Further contributions will no longer be justified once the Ankara laboratory has begun production of sufficient vaccine of the projected standard. The aim of this proposal, being eventually long term, is fundamentally different from previous short term proposals.

The Community's financial contribution

7. A request was made to the Community for three million dollars to equip the Institute of Ankara, an original request of one million dollars from the FAO and a supplementary request of two million dollars from Turkey. In view of the present financial situation and the length of implementation of the project (construction of the principal buildings will not be finished before 1977), the Commission proposes that the Community's contribution be limited to one million dollars for the period up to 31 December 1980.

8. In return the Turkish authorities are to undertake that the existing buffer zone be maintained and extended in Anotolia.

9. The total Community contribution is to amount to one million dollars for the period up to 31 December 1980. Intended to finance installations acquired progressively, the total contribution is to be paid out in instalments on submission of the appropriate documents.

According to the progress of work, the contribution will be paid in instalments as follows :

1975	: 100,000 US dollars (83,000 u.a.)
1976	: 400,000 US dollars (332,000 u.a.)
1977	: 250,000 US dollars (207,000 u.a.)
1980	: (estimated completion of work) 250,000 US dollars (207,000 u.a.)

For the 1975 instalment (83,000 u.a.) the Council will be asked for a transfer of credit from Chapter 99 to Item 3103 of the 1975 Budget.

The estimated amounts of the instalments for 1976-1977 and 1980 will be entered in the corresponding budgets.

10. Evidently, the success of the operation depends as much upon the development of proper techniques for the production of vaccine as upon finances. That is why the Community's contribution will be backed up by technical assistance in the form of training Turkish researchers in Community laboratories and seconding experts from the Community to Ankara (to fall within the scope of Regulation

(EEC) No 1728/74 of 27 June 1974 on the coordination of agricultural research¹.

11. The Commission is to check on the use to which these contributions are to be put and to make a report to the Council (Article 2 of the proposal).

Conclusions

12. It is in the evident interest of the Community to prevent the spread of exotic varieties of foot-and-mouth disease into its territory by maintaining and extending a buffer zone in Turkey.

13. The present proposals have the attraction that, in making Turkey self-sufficient in vaccine production, the substantial piecemeal aid contributions of the Community will come to an end after 1980. For this reason, the present proposal can be approved by the Committee on Agriculture.

14. However, the Committee on Agriculture has recently been consulted on another proposal² relating to Community contribution to foot-and-mouth eradication programmes in Turkey. The Commission has stated that other proposals concerning foot-and-mouth disease under the auspices of the FAO are to be expected.

The Committee on Agriculture requests that such piecemeal proposals be put, where possible, into a coherent programme upon which the European Parliament may give its opinion.

15. The Committee on Agriculture also requests that the European Parliament, as well as the Council, be consulted on the Commission's report on the implementation of the measures contained in the proposal.

¹ O.J. No L 182, 5.7.1974, p.1.

² Doc. 82/75; see report by Mr Ney (Doc. 132/75)

