COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(74) 1304 final
Brussels, 10 September 1974

Proposal for a
COUNCIL DECISION

supplementing the Community programme of research into classical swine fever and African swine fever

(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

Proposal for a decision to amend the Council Decision of 28 December 1972 adopting a Community research programme into classical and African swine fever

Explanatory memorandum

The Commission's proposal concerning the implementation of the Community research programme into classical and African swine fever (doc. COM (72) 883 final) was presented to the Council on 7 August 1972, at a time when the accession of the three new members of the Community was being examined.

During the Council discussions, the Commission emphasised the undoubted interest of bringing the research institutes and laboratories of the United Kingdom, Ireland and Denmark into this programme.

However, in order not to delay putting the work in hand, it was agreed to start operations with institutes and laboratories in the Six, plus two laboratories in third countries, one in Spain and the other in Portugal.

Thus on 28 December 1972 (OJ L 298/50, 31 December 1972) the Council decided to establish this research programme, of a duration of four years as from 1 January 1973.

In 1973 the competent departments of the Commission already contacted research institutes and laboratories in the three new Member States in order to determine the scientific aims which would be assigned to the new contracting parties in the light of their scientific and technical capabilities in the field of classical and African swine fever.

The privileged position of Ireland, the United Kingdom and Denmark, whose stock is absolutely free from African swine fever and, as far as classical swine fever is concerned, to some extent free from wild virus strains or strains of vaccinal origin, will make it possible to test in the optimum manner all the work carried out by the research laboratories and institutes, both in the Six and in Spain and Portugal.

All the work entrusted to the new partners thus supplements the operations scheduled in the Community research programme into classical and African swine fever, and in particular enhances the results hoped for and obtained in as far as it almost completely eliminates the risks of interference in the immunological reactions; it thus provides an additional guarantee as to the reliability of the clinical diagnoses and the specificity of the methods to be employed to safeguard the health of the new partners' pig stock.

In particular, this scientific participation will render possible:

1. the setting-up of scientific teams competent in epidemiological matters, in order to obviate any risk of epizootic disease in countries at present free from such disease;

2. the increase of Community scientific knowledge in the field of classical and African swine fever through co-ordination of the work, based on reciprocal information, which may take the form of exchanges of research workers.

The Commission's departments concerned have directly associated the various research institutes and laboratories in the three new Member States with the work carried out since 1973. There have been many exchanges of research workers between these institutes and the coparticipants in the Community research programme into classical and African swine fever.

The Commission now considers that as this adaptation stage is over, it is necessary to embark upon the second stage, i.e., the conclusion of research contracts with the following institutes and laboratories:

United Kingdom: The Animal Virus Research Institute
Pirbright, Woking, Surrey

The Central Veterinary Laboratory
New Haw, Weybridge, Surrey

The Department of Animal Husbandry
University of Bristol, Gloucestershire

Ireland: The Veterinary Research Institute Laboratory of Dublin

Denmark: The Kalvehave State Veterinary Institute for Virus Research

In association with the officials responsible for science policy in the Member States, and in particular with the Directors-General for agricultural research, a supplement to the Community research programme into classical and African swine fever, to be completed by 31 December 1976, has been drawn up.

In this programme the research institutes and laboratories in the new Member States would be made responsible for the achievement of the following aims:

I. United Kingdom:

A. Pirbright Institute (Surrey):

1. Classical swine fever:
Study of the components of the virus in order to determine the connection between the structure of the virus and its role and biological effects.

This project involves:

(i) Purification of the "labelled" virus by means of radioactive precursors;
(ii) Disintegration and study of the virus's components.

In particular, this work will dovetail with the studies at present being carried out in the University of Utrecht and will make the diagnosis of the disease more effective and more specific.

2. African swine fever:

The type of study is the same as that contemplated for classical swine fever and is aimed at improving the differential diagnosis between t he two diseases due to viruses of differing structures. As research into African swine fever is more difficult because the two diseases coexist in Spain and Portugal, the work of this institute will be a necessary back-up to the studies carried out in the institutes of Madrid and Lisbon.

B. Weybridge Institute (Surrey):

Epidemiological study of classical swine fever "in the field" and by experimental inoculation with the virus. Study of the antigenic relations between classical swine fever virus and bovine diarrhoea virus with a view to improving the differential diagnosis between the two diseases. This will supplement the work now being carried out in the Uccle Institute and the Thiverval-Grignon Institute.

C. Bristol University

The aim of the project put forward is to improve the efficacy of the vaccination of the sow and to provide more effective protection of new-born piglets against classical and African swine fever. It covers:

(i) determination of the most effective route of administration of the vaccine;

(ii) determination of the age at which the piglet acquires its local immunity process;

(iii) study of the influence of passively transferred antibodies on the emergence of the immunity response in pigs.

This will make it possible to ascertain the relationships between the local systems of immunity in order to obtain better vaccination and thus to combat the disease more effectively.

These studies would be carried out in close co-operation with the Thiverval-Grignon Institute.

II. Ireland: Dublin Institute:

Since classical swine fever was eradicated by slaughtering whenever it broke out, the present Irish pig stock has never been vaccinated and is free from wild or vaccinal classical swine fever virus, thus permitting the study of the antibodies developed in pigs by the bovine diarrhoea virus without fear of interference from those of wild or attenuated strains.

III. Denmark: Lindholm Veterinary Institute:

The work will deal with the establishment of a method of identifying the classical swine fever virus and the antibodies produced at the initial stage of the subclinical forms of the disease and the study of the immunizing effect of the bovine diarrhoea virus versus that of classical swine fever.

These activities will supplement those of the Uccle, Thiverval-Grignon and Weybridge Institutes.

Such work will make it possible to secure a better understanding and use of the results obtained in the other Institutes working on classical swine fever virus and bovine diarrhoea virus in countries where they coexist, especially in the Hanover Veterinary Institute and the Weybridge Institute.

Details of co-operation between these research institutes and laboratories and the Commission of the European Communities will be set out in agreements along the same lines as those adopted for the implementation of the Community research programme into classical and African swine fever decided upon by the Council on 28 December 1972.

Financial aspects:

The total cost of the extension of the programme is assessed by the Commission at	1 503 696 u.a.
The contribution of the contracting partners is assessed at	715 598 u.a.
The Community's contribution is fixed at	788 098 u.a.
which breaks down as follows:[1]	
1st financial year (1974)	251 010 u.a.
2nd financial year (1975)	277 088 u.a.
3rd financial year (1976)	260 000 u.a.

As the Community research programme into classical and African swine fever is due to be completed by 31 December 1976, it would be advisable for the present supplementary programme to be accomplished by the same date. The delays involved in the Commission-Council procedure are liable to prevent the research work from getting under way before the beginning of 1975. In view of this, the need to carry through in two years the same amount of scientific work initially planned for three years should already be anticipated. This does not raise any insurmountable problems from the technical point of view. Were this solution to be adopted, the total funding as set out above would have to be spread over two financial years.

---

[1] Assessments included in the 1974 financial records - Budget Chapter 31 - item 3155 - VI/17

These amounts are intended to cover the following expenditure:

(1) research work carried out by the coparticipants in this programme, broken down according to the following items:

(a) staff expenses
(b) amortisation of durable equipment
(c) purchases of animals
(d) upkeep of animals
(e) purchases of non-durable equipment
(f) overheads.

(2) co-ordination of the research work. The appropriations under this heading are intended to cover the following expenses, which are indispensable for the successful research co-ordination between the laboratories associated with the studies.

(a) regular meetings of scientists
(b) scientific contacts in the form of technological seminars and residential workshops
(c) exchange of research workers
(d) exchange of information, publication and dissemination of results
(e) miscellaneous co-ordination expenses: acquisition of scientific publications; fees for lecturers and for scientific expert opinions; fees for scientific revision; registration fees for international congresses.

Budget estimates for the extension of the community research programme into classical and African swine fever

Financial contribution in u.a.	1974		1975		1976		TOTAL		%	
	EEC	LAB	EEC	LAB	EEC	LAB	EEC	LAB		
Pirbright	91 300	91 300	100 430	100 430	110 473	110 473	302 203	302 203	50	
Weybridge	33 034	33 034	36 336	36 336	-	-	69 370	69 370	50	
Bristol	32 596	32 596	37 122	37 122	39 337	39 337	109 095	109 095	50	
Dublin	31 080	31 080	34 200	34 200	37 650	37 650	102 930	102 930	50	
Lindholm	40 000	40 000	44 000	44 000	48 000	48 000	132 000	132 000	50	
1st TOTAL	228 010	228 010	252 088	252 088	235 500	235 500	715 598	715 598	50	
Co-ordination of research work	23 000	-	25 000	-	24 500	-	72 500	-	100	
									EEC	LAB
2nd TOTAL	251 010	228 010	227 088	252 088	260 000	235 500	788 098	715 598	52.41	47.59

Proposal for a
COUNCIL DECISION

supplementing the Community programme of research into

classical swine fever and 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 by its Decision of 28 December 1972[1] the Council ordered a Community research programme into classical swine fever and African swine fever;

Whereas it appears expedient to exploit the particular epidemiological conditions in the United Kingdom, in Ireland and in Denmark for the purposes of examining the existing, and any future, body of scientific knowledge gained in conjunction with work on the Community programme of research into classical swine fever and African swine fever;

Whereas, furthermore, a contribution should be made to finance the formation of working parties on the subject of epidemiology for the purposes of improved prevention of epizooty risks in the countries of the Community which are at present free of classical swine fever and African swine fever infection;

---

[1] OJ L 298/50, dated 31.12.1972

HAS DECIDED:

Sole Article

Annex I of the Decision of the Council dated 28 December 1972 is supplemented as follows:

I. Description of the work:

A. Classical swine fever:

I. Virology: - purification of the virus "labelled" by means of radioactive precursors

- breaking down of the virus into its sub-units and study of these sub-units

II. Pathology: - study of the antigenic relationships between the classical swine fever virus and the bovine diarrhoea virus for the purposes of improving differential diagnosis between the two diseases

III. Immunology:- determination of the age at which a piglet sets up its local immunity process

- study of the immunizing activity of bovine diarrhoea virus against classical swine fever virus

B. African swine fever:

Perfectioning of differential diagnosis taking into account the evolution of wild strains.

II. Participants:

United Kingdom: -The Animal Virus Research Institute
Pirbright - Woking - Surrey
-The Central Veterinary Laboratory
New Haw - Weybridge - Surrey
-The Department of Animal Husbandry
University of Bristol - Gloucestershire

Ireland: -The Veterinary Research Institute
Laboratory of Dublin

Denmark: -The State Veterinary Institute for Virus
Research of Kalvehave