

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL

Implementation of Council Decisions 73/768/EEC and 75/68/EEC
on a financial contribution to the campaign against foot-and-
mouth disease in south-east Europe

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COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL

Subject : Implementation of Council Decisions 73/89/EEC and 75/768/EEC on a financial contribution to the campaign against foot-and-mouth disease in south-east Europe.

1. Council Decisions 73/89/EEC of 17 April 1973 (OJ L No 108 of 25.4.1973) and 75/768/EEC of 9 December 1975 (OJ L No 321 of 12.12.1975) granted a contribution of 600 000 u.a. (816 477 USD) and 280 000 u.a. (362 500 USD) respectively to the campaign against exotic foot-and-mouth viruses in the countries of south-east Europe. Article 2 of each of these Decisions specifies that the Commission must submit a report to the Council on the implementation of these Decisions.
2. (a) The contribution of 600 000 u.a. was granted following an appeal made by the FAO to the EEC and to European non-member countries when there was a recurrence of the A22 virus of foot-and-mouth disease in Turkey and Greece in 1972. The purpose of the appeal was to obtain the necessary funds to continue the campaign which the FAO has been engaged in since 1962 in the countries of south-east Europe in order to protect Europe from the danger of a spread of exotic foot-and-mouth viruses. There was an outbreak of the A22 virus in the Near East in the spring of 1972 and it then spread to Anatolia, the USSR and Greek and Turkish Thrace.
(b) The contribution of 280 000 u.a. was granted following another appeal launched by the FAO in order to obtain funds to continue its campaign against the A22 virus and to extend it to other foot-and-mouth viruses in particular the Asia 1 virus, also exotic to Europe, which in the meantime had broken out in Turkey and spread as far as the Istanbul region.
3. In addition to the abovementioned financial contributions the EEC had between 1974 and 1976 donated to the FAO 3 million doses of vaccine against foot-and-mouth disease from the reconstituted vaccine reserve which it had established in 1973 (Council Decision 73/88/EEC of 26.3.1973, OJ L No 106 of 20.4.1973) in order to protect itself against the A22 and Asia 1 foot-and-mouth viruses which presented a serious and immediate danger to the EEC at that time.

This reserve had been established in order to enable Member States in the event of an outbreak of one of these exotic foot-and-mouth viruses on their territory to combat immediately the first attacks of the disease while waiting for the vaccine to be produced by their own laboratories.

Paragraph V of the Annex summarizes, on the basis of the information supplied by the FAO, the distribution between the different non-member countries of the vaccine coming from the Community reserve.

4. As a result of the resources made available by the local authorities to the international financial contribution (EEC - FAO and other European countries) the FAO was able to establish and maintain buffer zones in the border regions of Greece and Turkey and Bulgaria and Turkey where vaccination against the foot-and-mouth disease was carried out regularly so as to create a barrier against the spread of the foot-and-mouth virus to other European countries.

In 1972, following the outbreak of the A22 foot-and-mouth virus in Greek and Turkish Thrace and its rapid spread to seven Greek provinces, Greece and Turkey carried out vaccinations and even second vaccination campaigns in order to halt the progress of the disease.

In the spring of 1973 a vaccination campaign with a bivalent vaccine (A22 and 0 : the latter, which differed somewhat from the classic 01 had appeared in Thrace) was carried out in Greek and Turkish Thrace and a monovalent A22 vaccine was used in Bulgarian Thrace. Towards the end of the same year the three countries concerned, namely Greece, Turkey and Bulgaria, had to carry out a fresh vaccination campaign on the livestock in the buffer zones in order to protect them against the Asia 1 foot-and-mouth virus which in the meantime had spread as far as the Istanbul region in Turkey.

In the spring of 1974 these three countries carried out a vaccination campaign in the buffer zones with a monovalent, bivalent (A 22, Asia 1) or trivalent (A22/Asia 1/0) vaccine, depending on the health situation of livestock, and gave a booster vaccination in autumn.

The buffer zones were maintained in the following years as a result of annual and sometimes six-monthly vaccination campaigns (booster vaccination) with monovalent, bivalent or trivalent vaccine as required.

5. Following the health protection measures taken by the countries concerned and the action taken by the FAO, the spread to Europe of the Epizootic waves of the A22 and Asia 1 virus were stopped and the situation within the countries affected by this virus (Greece-Turkey), and in particular in the buffer zones, was improved.

Turkey eliminated the Asia 1 virus. However, on account of the persistence of this virus in the neighbouring countries vaccination of the animals in the buffer zones was continued until the end of 1977. On the other hand, the A22 virus has continued to exist in Anatolia to this day.

Thrace (Greece) has been free of foot-and-mouth disease since January 1974. Thrace (Turkey) was free of this disease from September 1973 to the early months of 1977. In 1977 there were four outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease caused by a strain of type 0 virus which seems to differ antigenically from the classic strains of the type 0 used for the preparation of the European vaccines.

In 1978 there were 32 outbreaks in Thrace. Studies are being carried out in order to determine exactly the immunological properties of this Turkish 0 strain as against the classic European 01 strain with a view to using it to prepare vaccine for the campaigns against foot-and-mouth disease in south-east Europe.

6. The various measures carried out in south-east Europe and in particular the choice of the type of vaccine which was used depending on the epizootological situation at the time were decided by common agreement between the representatives of the FAO, the OIE and the EEC in a Tripartite Advisory Committee.

The technical and financial aspects of these measures were also examined at meetings, organized by the FAO, of the European Commission for the campaign against foot-and-mouth disease. Most of the European States and various international organizations took part in these meetings.

7. The Annex summarises; on the basis of the information supplied by the FAO, the uses made of the contributions granted under the two Council Decisions mentioned in paragraph 1.

It specified in particular that :

- (a) 1 047 350 dollars have been spent on the purchase and transportation of vaccines to the buffer zones,
 - (b) 114 100 dollars have been spent to supply the Foot-and-mouth Institutes of Ankara and Athens with certain pieces of equipment, chemical products and other indispensable material to increase the diagnostic and vaccine production capacity of these institutes so that these countries will be better able to combat the disease.
 - (c) 53 510 dollars have been used to cover expenditure arising from inspection and information visits to the countries in south-east Europe made by experts and by the secretary of the European Commission for the campaign against foot-and-mouth disease, as well as the cost of running, administering and organizing meetings.
8. Given the need to maintain the buffer zones in view particularly of the persistence of the A22 virus in Anatolia, the FAO will in September 1978 make another appeal to the EEC and to the European non-member countries for funds to enable it to continue its campaign against the foot-and-mouth disease in south-east Europe.

Under Decision 79/511/EEC of 24 May 1979 (OJ L No 133 of 31.5.1979) the Council granted a contribution of 700 000 EUA.

The Council report on the implementation of this Decision will be prepared as soon as the contribution granted has been utilized.

ANNEX

FAO campaigns against foot-and-mouth disease in south-east Europe

I. EEC contributions since 1973 :-

1973 : 816 777 USD

1976 : 362 500 USD

TOTAL : 1 179 277 USD

II. Utilization of the sums mentioned in paragraph I :

(see annexed table).

III. On 20 March 1979 assets in USD amounted to 62 000. This amount was incorporated into the new financial contribution which the Council granted on 24 May 1979 and the use made of it will be given at the same time as the latter.

IV. There is a difference of 97 683 dollars between the combined amount contributed by the EEC in 1973 and 1976 i.e. 1 179 277 dollars and the amount of 1 276 960 dollars of which 1 214 960 has already been paid out thereby leaving 62 000 dollars over. Of this difference, 23 935 dollars, 63 cents, is the balance of the amount paid out by the EEC between 1962 and 1968 and 73 747 dollars 37 cents represent interest which the FAO paid on the non-committed deposits.

V. Distribution of the EEC vaccine :

Year	Type of vaccine (doses)		Beneficiary country
	A 22	Asia 1	
1974		450 000	Turkey
		200 000	Greece
		200 000	Bulgaria
		100 000	Cyprus
	200 000		Bulgaria
	100 000		Cyprus
1975		350 000	Turkey
		200 000	Greece
	500 000		Turkey
1976		150 000	Bulgaria
		150 000	Turkey

1976	250 000		Turkey
	150 000		Bulgaria
TOTAL :	1 200 000	1 800 000	

VI. It should be pointed out that the FAO, instead of deducting (as provided for in its rules relating to operating costs in respect of deposited funds), an amount of 14% on every purchase made by it, deducted only 6% in respect of purchases made under these measures and did not deduct anything on purchases of vaccine.

TABLE

VACCINE	USD	LABORATORY EQUIPMENT	USD	Administration, meetings and technical inspection visits	USD
<u>1972</u>					
- 186 000 doses of vaccine A22 (obtained at cost price) for Greece	19 450				5 520
<u>1973</u>					
- 400 000 doses of vaccine (200 000 doses of ASIA to Greece) and 200 000 doses to Turkey)	89 300	Chemical products for the preparation of the culture medium and small laboratory equipment (Turkey)	18 200		9 220
<u>1974</u>					
- 500 000 doses of ASIA vaccine for Turkey	70 000	- 100 stainless containers (50 l.) and piping (200 m) (Turkey)	17 000		
- 400 000 doses of ASIA/A22 (200 000 for Greece 200 000 for Turkey)	176 000	- 1 vibro-mixer of 1 200 l (Turkey)	17 000		12 020
- Cost of transportation of EEC stocks	10 000	1 Orion filter and other filters (Turkey)	14 000		
<u>1975</u>					
- 250 000 doses of ASIA/A22 for Turkey	133 000	20 different chemical products for the culture of tissues; diatom powder (1 300 kg) and other small laboratory equipment (Turkey)	20 740		15 050
- cost of transportation of EEC stocks	5 000				

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VACCINE	USD	LABORATORY EQUIPMENT	USD	Administration, meetings and technical inspection visits	USD
<u>1976</u>					
- cost of transportation of EEC stocks	3 600	Velo filters and diatom powder (for Greece)	4 300		11 700
<u>1977</u>					
- 600 000 doses of ASIA/A ₂₂ /0 vaccines in order to maintain the buffer zones in Thrace and for the 1977 spring campaign (Turkey 240 000 Greece 170 000 Bulgaria 190 000)	252 000	(for Greece) Alfa Laval centrifuge Liquid nitrogen cooler Laminar flux cabinet Cellular centrifuge with bucket	6 100 1 100 1 900 7 300		
<u>1978</u>					
- 700 000 doses of A ₂₂ /0 vaccines in order to maintain the buffer zones in Thrace and for the Spring campaign (Turkey 400 000 Bulgaria 180 000 Greece 120 000)	259 000				
- 200 000 doses of 01 for Turkey in the Autumn	30 000				
TOTAL	1 047 350		107 604		53 510

TOTAL	1 047 350	107 604	53 510
		(6% from the FAO	<u>6 460</u>
		TOTAL :	114 100

General total paid out : 1 214 960

