

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(79) 649 final

Brussels, 21 November 1979

Proposal for a
COUNCIL DIRECTIVE
on the acceptance for breeding purposes of pure-bred breeding animals
of the bovine species

(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

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EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Council Directive 77/504/EEC⁽¹⁾ laid the foundations for a gradual liberalization of intra-Community trade in pure-bred breeding animals. In this respect, Article 3 of that Directive provided for a subsequent stage to be reached on 1 July 1980 consisting in the adoption of Community provisions governing acceptance for breeding purposes.

The object of this proposal is, therefore, to continue harmonization by laying the foundations of a body of Community Regulations on the conditions for the acceptance of pure-bred breeding animals for breeding purposes.

This proposal is intended to liberalize acceptance for breeding purposes, entirely, in the case of pure-bred female animals and eventually, for natural-stud male animals.

With regard to artificial insemination, which constitutes a major technique for modern animal husbandry, this proposal makes it possible, pending the adoption of more detailed Community rules, henceforth, to liberalize trade on the basis of the mutual recognition of the national qualifications of Member States and the involvement of centres officially approved on a national basis.

⁽¹⁾ O.J. No L 206, 12.8.1977, p. 8

Proposal for a
COUNCIL DIRECTIVE

on the acceptance for breeding purposes of pure-bred breeding animals of the
bovine species

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Having regard to Article 3 of Directive 77/504/EEC of 25 July 1979 on pure-bred breeding animals of the bovine species¹, and in particular Article 3 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas Directive 77/504/EEC was intended gradually to liberalize intra-Community trade in pure-bred breeding animals of the bovine species; whereas, for this purpose additional harmonization with regard to the acceptance of such animals for breeding purposes is necessary;

Whereas, in this respect, it is necessary to prevent national provisions relating to the acceptance for breeding purposes of pure-bred breeding animals of the bovine species from constituting a prohibition, restriction or barrier to intra-Community trade;

Whereas artificial insemination constitutes an important technique for increasing the use of the best breeders and, hence, for improving the bovine species; whereas in so doing, however, any impairment of the pedigree must be avoided, particularly with regard to male breeders, which must possess all guarantees of their genetic value and of their freedom from hereditary defects;

Whereas it is necessary to make a distinction between the acceptance for artificial insemination of pure-bred bulls which have undergone all the official tests laid down for their breed in a Member State and the acceptance of bulls accepted solely for the purposes of testing;

Whereas official approval of the centres responsible for artificial insemination is capable of providing the guarantees necessary for attaining the desired end;

¹ O.J. No L 206, 12.8.1977, p. 8.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DIRECTIVE :

Article 1

Member States shall ensure that there is no prohibition, restriction or impediment, on zootechnical grounds, on the acceptance for breeding purposes of pure-bred female animals of the bovine species, and with effect from 1 January 1986, acceptance for natural mating of pure-bred bulls.

Article 2

Until the entry into force of the measures provided for in the first indent of Article 6 (1) of Directive 77/504/EEC, subject to the application of the provisions of Article 3, Member States shall ensure that there is no prohibition, restriction or impediment to :

- the acceptance for testing throughout Community territory of bulls, or of their semen, which are accepted in a Member State for the official testing specified for their breed,
- acceptance for artificial insemination throughout Community territory of bulls, or of their semen, which are accepted for artificial insemination in a Member State after testing according to a method and standards which are officially recognized in that Member State.

Article 3

For purposes of Article 2, the use of pure-bred bulls shall, moreover, be subject to the following conditions :

- that they are identified according to a method which, until the entry into force of Community provisions to be adopted in accordance with the procedure provided for in Article 8 of Directive 77/504/EEC, is one of the methods officially accepted in the Member State from which they come;
- that they are registered in the herd book of their breed;
- that they are accompanied by a pedigree certificate;
- that they are accompanied by the documents attesting all the qualities and characteristics taken into consideration for this use.

Article 4

The semen of the bulls mentioned in Articles 2 and 3 must be collected, treated and stored in an officially approved artificial insemination centre.

Article 5

The semen must be accompanied by all the necessary items of identification. In addition, for bulls accepted for testing, the blood group of the bull and those of its parents may also be required.

Article 6

This Directive is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council

The President