

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

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## Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture

on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 1-689/82 - COM(82) 524 final) for a decision on a financial contribution from the Community to the campaign against foot-and-mouth disease in South East Europe

Rapporteur: Mr B. HORD



By letter of 6 October 1982, the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament to deliver an opinion, pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty, on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a Council decision on a financial contribution from the Community to the campaign against foot-and-mouth disease in South-East Europe.

On 13 October 1982, the President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Agriculture as the committee responsible and to the Committee on External Economic Relations and the Committee on Budgets for their opinions.

At its meeting of 18/19 October 1982 the Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr HORD rapporteur.

The committee considered the Commission's proposal and the draft report at its meeting of 1 and 2 December 1982 and decided unanimously to recommend to Parliament that it approve the Commission's proposal without amendment.

The committee then unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution as a whole.

The following took part in the vote: Mr CURRY, chairman; Mr FRÜH, vice-chairman; Mr HORD, rapporteur; Mr ABENS (deputizing for Mr SUTRA), Mr CLINTON, Mr COSTANZO (deputizing for Mr COLLESELLI), Mrs DESOUCHES (deputizing for Mr THAREAU), Mr GAUTIER, Mr GIUMMARRA (deputizing for Mr LIGIOS), Mr HOWELL, Mr MERTENS, Mr PROVAN, Mr TOLMAN and Mr WOLTJER.

The opinions of the Committee on External Economic Relations and of 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

closing the procedure for consultation of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a Council decision on a financial contribution from the Community to the campaign against foot-and-mouth disease in South-East Europe

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission to the Council (COM (82) 524 final)<sup>1</sup>,
- having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 1-689/82),
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and the opinions of the Committee on External Economic Relations and the Committee on Budgets (Doc. 1-973/82),
- having regard to the result of the vote on the Commission's proposal,

(a) whereas foot-and-mouth disease caused by exotic viruses constitutes a danger to Community livestock, and whereas the creation of a buffer zone on the Greek-Turkish and Bulgarian-Turkish borders will provide an effective means of counteracting this danger,

(b) bearing in mind that in the past the Community has repeatedly made a financial contribution to FAO measures to combat foot-and-mouth disease in South-East Europe,

1. Regrets that attempts in the third countries adjacent to the buffer zone have not yet succeeded in preventing the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease caused by exotic viruses;
2. Considers it essential, therefore, that the buffer zone should be maintained and that in the interests of Community livestock the Community should make a financial contribution to the cost of the preventive measures;
3. Considers that the grand total of 830,000 ECU, which appears in the financial statement for 1982 and 1983, should be sufficient for the continuation of the preventive measures to be implemented by the FAO until 1984;

<sup>1</sup>-----  
OJ No. C 264, 8.10.1982, p.7

4. Calls on the Commission to continue to supervise the manner in which the appropriations are utilized and to report back to the Council and Parliament in good time so as to provide reliable assessment criteria for any further measures which might be required in the post-1984 period;
5. Approves the Commission's proposal subject to these provisos;
6. Instructs its President to forward to the Council and Commission, as Parliament's opinion, the Commission's proposal as voted by Parliament and the corresponding resolution.

Explanatory statement

The Director-General of the FAO<sup>1</sup> has submitted to the Commission a request for a contribution to the continuation of the measures to combat foot-and-mouth disease in the countries of South-East Europe.

Livestock in Europe, and particularly in the European Community, is threatened at more or less regular intervals by exotic viruses of foot-and-mouth disease which originate in the Near East and spread right across Turkey to the Greek-Turkish border. Several hundred centres of infection flare up every year in Turkey alone. Accordingly, Community livestock is constantly threatened with infection originating outside the Community's sphere of influence, notwithstanding the protective measures taken in the Member States.

In 1972, the FAO, with financial assistance from the EEC and other European countries, created a buffer zone along the Greek-Turkish and Bulgarian-Turkish borders, within which all animals susceptible to foot-and-mouth disease were systematically vaccinated with specially developed vaccines, in order to establish a barrier to prevent these exotic viruses of foot-and-mouth disease from spreading into Europe. The creation of this buffer zone has to date prevented the foot-and-mouth viruses, which recur regularly in the Near East, from spreading to the countries of Europe, especially to the Member States of the European Community. The absence of this buffer zone would undoubtedly have had a disastrous effect on Community livestock which is not vaccinated against exotic viruses of foot-and-mouth disease.

The vaccination measures proposed for the buffer zone by the FAO and the European Commission for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease will entail expenditure on the purchase of vaccines. According to the FAO, a Community contribution of US \$870,000 (approximately 880,000 ECU) would be required for the purchase of the vaccines intended for Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey. From that figure may be deducted the share intended for Greece which can be charged to the Emergency Veterinary Fund, as agreed during the negotiations for Greek accession to the Community, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 2 of Council Decision 77/97/EEC of 21 December 1976<sup>2</sup>. The Community's

1 Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations special agency for nutrition, agriculture and forestry

2 OJ No. L 26, 31.1.1977

contribution therefore amounts to 830,000 ECU. According to the FAO, this will enable the vaccination campaign in the buffer zone to be continued until 1984.

Article 1 of the proposal provides for the Council to instruct the Commission to grant financial aid to the FAO for vaccination measures from the 1982 and 1983 budgets. No exact figure is given, although it is possible to calculate a contribution of 830,000 ECU from the figures supplied by the FAO. The same figure appears in the attached financial statement.

According to a communication from the Commission, no exact figure is entered in the proposal for a decision in order to comply with an agreement between the three institutions (Parliament, Council and Commission) concerning a simplification of the procedure for establishing the budget.

Pursuant to Article 2 of the proposal, the Commission will be responsible for supervising the manner in which the appropriations are utilized and will report back to the Council and the European Parliament on the implementation of the Council decision. The Committee on Agriculture hopes that this report will be comprehensive and drawn up in good time so as to provide reliable assessment criteria for any further measures which might be necessary in the buffer zone.

Subject to these provisos, the Committee on Agriculture approves the proposal, since in the present circumstances a financial contribution to the FAO's vaccination campaign is essential for the protection of Community livestock.

Opinion of the Committee on External Economic Relations

Letter from the committee chairman to Mr David CURRY, chairman of the  
Committee on Agriculture:

Luxembourg, 21 October 1982

Subject: Commission proposal for a decision on a financial contribution  
from the Community to the campaign against foot-and-mouth  
disease in South-East Europe (Doc. 1-689/82)

Dear Mr Chairman,

The Committee on External Economic Relations considered the above  
proposal from the Commission at its meeting of 19 October 1982.

The committee unanimously approves the Commission's proposal.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd) Sir Frederick CATHERWOOD  
Chairman

The following took part in the vote: Sir Frederick Catherwood, chairman;  
Mr Seal, vice-chairman; Mr Almirante, Mrs Baduel-Glorioso, Mr Bonaccini  
(deputizing for Mr Galluzzi), Mr Filippi, Mr Rieger, Prince zu Sayn-Wittgenstein,  
Mr Seeler, Mr Spencer and Mr Ziagas

Opinion of the Committee on Budgets

Letter from the committee chairman to Mr David CURRY, chairman of the Committee on Agriculture :

Brussels, 2 December 1982

Subject : Proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a decision on a financial contribution from the Community to the campaign against foot-and-mouth disease in South-East Europe (Doc. 1-689/82)

Dear Mr Curry,

The Committee on Budgets considered the Commission proposal referred to above at its meeting of 29/30 November and 1 December 1982.

The committee took the view that no separate legal basis in the form of a Council decision was required for these measures. The appropriation of 500,000 ECU still required for the 1982 financial year has already been entered in the 1982 budget in Chapter 100 and simply needs to be transferred to the appropriate budget line.

The Commission has submitted to the Council and Parliament the appropriate proposal for a transfer of appropriations (No. 32/82 - COM(82) 743 final) which the Committee on Budgets approved at its meeting of 23/24 November 1982. As regards the 1983 financial year, sufficient appropriations for these measures are, similarly, already available for Item 4803 of the budget.

Referring to point IV.3(c) of the Joint Declaration by Parliament, Council and Commission, the Committee on Budgets has, therefore, called on the Commission to withdraw its proposal for a decision.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd) Erwin LANGE

The following took part in the vote : Mr Lange, chairman; Mr Abens, Mr Adam (deputizing for Mr Arndt), Mr Adonnino, Mr Balfour, Mr Fich, Mr Flanagan (deputizing for Mr Ansquer), Mr Kellett-Bowman, Mr Langes, Mr Pfennig and Mr Konrad Schön