

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1982-1983

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DOCUMENT 1-1055/82

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr DAVERN, Mr MOUCHEL, Mr de La MALÈNE, Mrs ANGLADE, Mr ANSQUER, Mr BORD, Mr COUSTE, Mr CRONIN, Mr DELEAU, Mr DENIAU, Mr FLANAGAN, Mr GERONIMI, Mr ISRAEL, Mr JUNOT, Mr LALOR, Mr NYBORG, Mr PAULHAN, Mr REMILLY, Miss DE VALERA, Mr VIE and Mrs WEISS,

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the urgent need to change the common organization of the sheepmeat market and to introduce temporary improvements before fixing the agricultural prices for 1983-84.

PE 82.239

The European Parliament,

- A - having regard to Regulation 1837/80 establishing a common organization in the sheepmeat market,
- B - having regard to the difficult situation faced by European sheepmeat producers in view of the stagnation in the market with prices in November 1982 equal to only 97% of the base price, as compared with 110% in November 1981,
- C - whereas this situation is attributable to defects in the conditions set out under Regulation 1837/80 and is aggravated by certain administrative measures adopted by the Commission,

As regards the internal aspects of the regulation:

- 1 - Points out that the application of Regulation 1837/80 has caused serious disparities between Member States with the result that, in 1981, 97.9% of expenditure under this regulation benefitted just one Member State;
- 2 - Draws attention to the disparities caused by the existence side by side of two different systems for guaranteeing producers' incomes, one of which obtains in only one Member State and yet has a permanently depressive effect on the whole market;
- 3 - Believes that this state of affairs works against the creation of a single market;
- 4 - Points out that the claw-back mechanism can no longer perform its corrective function in this respect because of the possibility of abuse due to authorization of the variable slaughter premium on live animals, and thus the possibility of this premium being granted at a time other than that when the slaughter takes place, in conditions and at rates bearing no relation with those prevailing at the time of the marketing of the carcasses;
- 5 - Deplores the distortion of competition thus engendered;
- 6 - Points out that these distortions are increased by the exemption from the claw-back of exports to third countries in the absence of refunds;

7 - Believes that such distortions should be eliminated:

- a. by abolishing the exceptional arrangements for the variable premium, which has been adopted by only one Member State;
- b. in the immediate future, by granting the variable premium only at the rate prevailing on the day of slaughter and by reimposing the claw-back where exports to third countries are concerned;

As regards the external aspects of the regulation:

- 8 - Points out that voluntary restraint agreements permit imports on preferential conditions of 322,000 tonnes of sheepmeat per year;
- 9 - Points out, however, that quantities of sheepmeat from third supplier countries for 1978, 1979 and 1980 amount to only 274,000 tonnes;
- 10 - Is concerned at conditions in which the possibility of importing 48,000 tonnes in excess of EEC requirements could be treated for no reason, in contempt of Community preference;
- 11 - Points out that this amount is shown to exceed EEC requirements by the fact that the volume of actual imports for 1981 was only 254,000 tonnes;
- 12 - Believes however that these initially favourable conditions granted to third supplier countries constantly risk creating serious disruption of the Community market, if, with their other outlets blocked, these third supplier countries were thus able to divert their sales to the EEC;
- 13 - Points out that these risks are increased by the long-term tendency for sheepmeat consumption to fall off in the EEC, owing to the purchase by consumers of other types of meat;
- 14 - Is concerned at the threats posed to the system of sensitive areas by Commission proposals to make constant increases in the quotas for such areas, whereas equilibrium in these markets must be preserved and therefore the system must be strictly maintained;
- 15 - Believes that this situation must be remedied:
 - (a) by reducing by voluntary restraint agreements the amount which may be imported to the level required to meet the needs of the Community; this measure will not cause hardship to third supplier countries whose actual volume of trade will not be reduced;

- (b) by adjusting for the future the amount to be imported each year under these agreements according to the EEC's supply deficit of the previous year,
- (c) by concluding an agreement with New Zealand guaranteeing her export earnings, thereby ensuring that such a measure does not damage her interests.

16 - Calls on the Commission:

- (a) as part of the revision of Regulation 1837/80, due before 1 April 1984, to submit to the Council proposals along the lines of the measures set out above, as regards both the internal and external aspects,
- (b) in the meantime to take transitional measures along the same lines, within the limits of its administrative authority,

17 - Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission.