

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1981 - 1982

15 February 1982

DOCUMENT 1-981/81

REPORT

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on the
Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection

on the proposal from the Commission of the
European Communities to the Council (Doc.1-98/81)
for a directive amending Directive 71/118/EEC
on health problems affecting trade in fresh
poultrymeat

Rapporteur: Mr F. COMBE

PE 75.797/fin.

By letter of 6 April 1981 the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament to deliver an opinion on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a directive on health problems affecting trade in fresh poultrymeat.

The President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection.

On 26 June 1981 the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection appointed Mr Combe rapporteur.

It considered this proposal at its meetings of 8 July 1981 and 27 January 1982. The amended proposal was adopted with 12 votes in favour and 6 abstentions. The draft report was adopted with 13 votes in favour and 6 abstentions.

The following took part in the vote: Mr Collins, chairman; Miss Hooper, vice-chairman; Mrs Weber, vice-chairman; Mr Combe, rapporteur; Mr Alber, Mr Bombard, Mr Ceravolo (deputizing for Mr Spinelli), Mr Del Duca, Mr Ghergo, Mrs Krouwel-Vlam, Mrs Lentz-Cornette, Mr Mertens (deputizing for Mrs Maij-Weggen), Mr Moreland (deputizing for Miss Brookes), Mrs Pantazi, Mr Provan (deputizing for Mr Johnson), Mrs Schleicher, Mrs Scrivener, Mrs Seibel-Emmerling and Mrs Spaak.

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A.

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection hereby submits to the European Parliament the following amendments and motion for a resolution together with explanatory statement :

AMENDMENTS TABLED

TEXT OF THE PROPOSAL FROM THE
COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Proposal from the Commission of the
European Communities to the Council
for a directive on health problems
affecting trade in fresh poultrymeat

AMENDMENT No. 1

Second recital

'Whereas, given the introduction of the new provisions concerning health inspections and controls and in view of the fact that in certain Member States the production of drawn poultrymeat is still important, no mention should be made of any date for the prohibition of the production of drawn poultrymeat.'

'Whereas, given the introduction of the new provisions concerning health inspections and controls and in view of the fact that in certain Member States the production of drawn poultrymeat is still important, the date on which the derogation relating to slaughter and evisceration comes to an end should be postponed.'

AMENDMENT No. 2

Article 1, paragraph 1a

'The number of official veterinarians, assistants, environmental health officers or meat inspectors with adequate and relevant qualifications employed in each establishment must be sufficient to ensure that all the inspection and health control requirements of this Directive are met, in particular the ante and post mortem inspection requirements of Chapters IV and VI of ANNEX I....'

'The number of official veterinarians and assistants employed in each establishment must be sufficient to ensure that all the inspection and health control requirements of this Directive are met, in particular the ante and post mortem inspection requirements of Chapters IV and VI of ANNEX I.....'

AMENDMENT Nr. 3

Article 1(2)

'4. All costs resulting from the inspections and health controls provided for in paragraph 1, including those resulting from the inspections and controls carried out in the slaughterhouses referred to in the second sentence of the third subparagraph of paragraph 1a, shall be borne by the public authorities.'

'4. All costs resulting from the inspections and health controls provided for in paragraph 1, including those resulting from the inspections and controls carried out in the slaughterhouses referred to in the second sentence of the third subparagraph of paragraph 1a, shall be charged at a standard rate to the product without reimbursement from public funds.'

AMENDMENT No. 4

Article 1(4)

(a) (delete the dates)¹

(b) to be deleted

'4. In Article 16a (a) :
- in the third indent, "15 August 1981"
is replaced by "15 August 1986"
- the following text is to be added
after the final sentence :
"Furthermore they shall send to the
Commission each year a report on any
changes in their country as regards
derogations relating to slaughtering
and evisceration; this report should
reflect the gradual decline in the
number of slaughterhouses benefitting
from the derogation, the aim being to
arrive at the application, not later
than 15 August 1986, of the provisions
of the Directive on slaughtering and
evisceration to all slaughterhouses
throughout their country."

AMENDMENT No. 5

Article 2

Member States shall bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive not later than 15 August 1982. They shall forthwith inform the Commission thereof.

Member States shall bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive
- not later than 15 July 1981 as regards the provisions of Article 1(4);
- not later than 15 August 1982 as regards the other provisions.
They shall forthwith inform the Commission thereof.

¹The derogation referred to becomes definitive

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a directive amending Directive 71/118/EEC on health problems affecting trade in fresh poultrymeat

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission for a directive (COM(81) 107 final)¹,
 - having been consulted by the Council (Doc. 1-98/81),
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection (Doc. 1-981/81),
1. Notes that this proposal for an amendment includes certain provisions directly affecting the trade in drawn poultrymeat;
 2. Notes also that the production of drawn poultrymeat is a traditional method of poultry production of greater commercial importance in certain Member States than in others;
 3. Believes it to be important that the number of veterinarians, assistants, environmental health officers or meat inspectors with adequate and relevant qualifications, employed in poultry slaughterhouses should be sufficient to guarantee optimum health conditions;
 4. Believes that the staff performing health inspection in establishments and slaughterhouses must be employed by the public authorities, in order to guarantee their complete impartiality;
 5. Believes that the cost of health inspections should be borne by the public authorities;
 6. Requests that the production, slaughter and marketing of drawn poultrymeat be freely allowed on a permanent basis, on the same terms as eviscerated poultry;
 7. Calls therefore for the immediate deletion of any dates for the restriction or prohibition of the production and sale of drawn poultry;
 8. Requests that the provisions of the directive be made applicable from 15 August 1982 at the latest.

¹OJ C 97 of 29.4.1981, p. 12.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. This proposal for a directive is more particularly concerned with the health problems affecting trade in drawn poultrymeat and the problem of harmonizing health controls and inspection in the various Member States.
2. Drawn poultry means poultry that has been slaughtered, plucked, bled and from which the entrails alone have been removed, i.e. sold with the liver, the gizzard, the heart and possibly the neck and head, as opposed to a bird that has been eviscerated and from which all the offal has been removed, i.e. an oven-ready fowl.
3. There is still a considerable trade in drawn poultry in some Member States of the European Community, while in others this traditional way of presenting poultry for sale has almost entirely disappeared.
4. For the protection of the consumer it is important that the slaughter, processing and preparation for the market of drawn or eviscerated poultry should take place under the most hygienic conditions possible. The number of veterinarians and assistants working in an establishment must be sufficient to ensure and monitor the observance of these requirements.
5. If health controls in establishments are to be completely impartial, the inspection staff should be employed by the public authorities and not by the establishments themselves. The cost of such controls should be borne by the public authorities.
6. If the cost of health controls were charged to the establishments themselves, distortions of competition would soon arise both between large and small producers and between the various Member States in view of their widely divergent labour costs.
7. The trade in drawn poultry is a traditional one and is important in several Member States. It is widespread among small producers but uncommon amongst large producers.
8. As the supply of drawn poultry meets a demand in certain Member States of the Community, hygiene requirements are met and there is no danger to the health of consumers, there can be no reason for banning it. Any date mentioned in the directive which might limit in time or prohibit the production and sale of drawn poultry, which ought to be as freely marketable as eviscerated poultry, should therefore be deleted.