

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1981- 1982

18 January 1982

DOCUMENT 1-930/81

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture

on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 1-726/81) for a Directive amending Directive 77/391/EEC and introducing a supplementary Community measure for the eradication of brucellosis, tuberculosis and leukosis in cattle

Rapporteur: Mr T. J. MAHER

By letter of 6 November 1981 the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty, to deliver an opinion on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a directive amending Directive 77/391/EEC and introducing a supplementary Community measure for the eradication of brucellosis, tuberculosis and leukosis in cattle.

The President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Agriculture as the Committee responsible and to the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection and the Committee on Budgets for their opinions.

On 24 November 1981 the Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr Maher Rapporteur.

At its meeting of 7/8 January 1982 the Committee discussed the proposal, and adopted the motion for a resolution and explanatory statement by 28 votes to 3 with 2 abstentions.

Present : Mr Delatte, acting chairman and vice-Chairman; Mr Früh, Vice-Chairman; Mr Maher, rapporteur; Mr Abens (deputising for Mr Wettig), Mr Adamou (deputising for Mr Papaefstratiou), Mr Barbagli (deputising for Mr Dalsass), Mr Blaney (deputising for Mr Skovmand), Mr Clinton, Mr Davern, Mr Del Duca (deputising for Mr Colleselli), Mr Diana, Mr Eyraud, Mr Fanton, Mr Gatto, Mr Gautier, Mr Helms, Mrs Herklotz, Mr Hord, Mr Howell (deputising for Mr Battersby), Mr Ligios, Mrs Lizin (deputising for Mrs Castle), Mr Maffre-Baugé, Mr Marck (deputising for Mr Bocklet), Mrs S Martin (deputising for Mr Caillavet), Mr d'Ormesson, Mrs Péry (deputising for Mr Thareau), Mr Pranchère, Mr Provan, Ms Quin, Mr Sutra, Mr Tolman, Mr Vernimmen and Mr Woltjer.

The opinion of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection will be published separately.

C O N T E N T S

	<u>Page</u>
Proposed Amendment No. 1	5
A. MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION	6
B. EXPLANATORY STATEMENT	
Introduction	7
Importance of the proposal	7
Level of compensation	8
Proper monitoring	9
Payment of compensation	9

On the basis of the attached explanatory statement, the Committee on Agriculture hereby submits the following amendments and motion for a resolution to the European Parliament:

AMENDMENT No. 1

tabled by the Committee on Agriculture

Proposal from the Commission to the Council (Doc. 1-726/81)

for a Council Directive amending Directive 77/391/EEC and introducing a supplementary Community measure for the eradication of brucellosis, tuberculosis and leukosis in cattle

Text proposed by the Commission
of the European Communities

Amended text

Article 5

Article 5

1. Unchanged

2. The Community shall pay the Member States 72.5 ECU for each cow slaughtered and 36.25 ECU for each other bovine animal slaughtered pursuant to the measures referred to in Chapter I of Directive 77/391/EEC.

2. The Community shall pay the Member States 108.75 ECU for each cow slaughtered and 54.375 ECU for each other bovine animal slaughtered pursuant to the measures referred to in Chapter I of Directive 77/391/EEC.

3. The aid chargeable to the Community budget under the Chapter on expenditure in the agricultural sector is estimated at 35 million ECU for the duration of the measures referred to in paragraph 1.

3. The aid chargeable to the Community budget under the Chapter on expenditure in the agricultural sector is estimated at 52.5 million ECU for the duration of the measures referred to in paragraph 1.

4. unchanged

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 77/391/EEC and introducing a supplementary Community measure for the eradication of brucellosis, tuberculosis and leukosis in cattle

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (COM(81) 611 final)¹,
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 1-726/81),
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and the opinions of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection (Doc. 1-930/81),
 - having regard to the report by Mr De Koning of November 1976 on the proposal for a decision setting up a Community action for the eradication of brucellosis, tuberculosis and leukosis in bovines (Doc. 414/76),
1. Emphasizes the importance of measures to eradicate bovine brucellosis, tuberculosis and leukosis for human as well as animal welfare, and to facilitating intra-Community trade;
 2. Points out that the reduction in the numbers of cows in the Community, and thereby a reduction in the amount of milk produced, can only be a consequence and not an objective of these disease eradication schemes;
 3. Points out that the level of compensation has not been increased since 1977, when it was already considerably lower than the normal 25% EAGGF contribution towards structural improvements;
 4. Believes that this inadequate funding will weaken the implementation of the schemes, so increasing the long-term costs;
 5. Calls, therefore, taking into consideration the serious income situation of cattle producers, for the Community's contribution to be increased by at least 50%;
 6. Stresses the importance of adequate monitoring of testing by the competent national and Community authorities and also the possible use of task force testing teams in areas where insufficient progress has been made;
 7. Requests the Commission to incorporate the proposed amendment in its proposal to the Council, pursuant to Article 149, second paragraph, of the EEC Treaty.

¹ OJ No. C 289, 11.11.1981, p. 4

EXPLANATORY STATEMENTIntroduction

1. On 17 May 1977, the Community introduced a three-year programme to eradicate bovine brucellosis, tuberculosis and leukosis in the Community. This scheme should lapse at the end of 1981.

2. However, it has become evident that the original deadline is too short to carry out all the tests for detection of infected animals. An interruption in testing could well jeopardize the results so far achieved. The Commission proposes, therefore, a two-year extension period.

3. According to the Commission, this extension will involve no additional cost, since 130 million ECU had been originally budgeted for; it is believed that 95 million ECU will be charged to the Community for the three-years envisaged, and the two additional years are expected to cost 35 million ECU.

4. A Community financial subvention is provided for the slaughter of reactors to tests for tuberculosis and brucellosis (and their dangerous contacts in the case of brucellosis and leukosis). This subvention is at the rate of 60 u.a. for each cow slaughtered and 30 u.a. for other bovines slaughtered, over the 3-year period.

In the case of brucellosis and tuberculosis, provisions are included to ensure that Community payments are only made where the national schemes are actually accelerated. The scheme provides for Community inspections in order to verify from a veterinary aspect the control measures instituted by Member States.

Importance of the proposal

5. Eradication of brucellosis and leukosis has two important aspects: animal and public health; and economic.

6. The eradication schemes produce direct benefits for the health of the Community cattle herds and is equally important for human health.

7. They also facilitate progress towards the elimination of derogations which now impede intra-Community trade and the removal of disease risks which impede the rationalization of production in agriculture in the Community.

8. It can be pointed out that the scheme had been drawn up originally to complete the package of Commission proposals for the non-marketing of milk, beef conversion scheme and the coresponsibility levy.

The principal objective of the non-marketing, beef conversion and disease eradication schemes had been to slaughter 2.5 million animals over three years, so easing the difficult market situation in the dairy sector. It was estimated

in 1977 that there were 1.8 million animals to be slaughtered because of brucella infections and 400,000 because of tuberculosis. The aim therefore was to slaughter those animals, the majority of which were cows, during the three years.

The figures of animals slaughtered during the period of application are as follows:

	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Others</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Total</u>	827,600	163,719	991,319
Brucellosis	635,835	96,510	732,345
Tuberculosis	127,064	52,629	179,693
Leukosis	64,701	14,580	79,281

This breaks down by year as follows:

<u>Total</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>
Brucellosis	79,540	338,151	314,654
Tuberculosis	23,795	63,796	92,102
Leukosis	16,176	61,299	1,806 ⁺

⁺ Figures for FRG not included for 1980

Level of compensation

9. This disease eradication scheme, while it may seem a rather technical subject to the layman, is of tremendous importance to the agricultural world and the general public alike. The scheme has not worked as anticipated.

There are technical reasons as the Commission explains. There may also be more fundamental reasons.

10. When the Committee on Agriculture drew up its opinion on the original proposal it expressed a number of reservations concerning the level of compensation, noting in particular that '...the proposed compensation from the EAGGF will only amount to 60 u.a. per cow and 30 u.a. for other bovine animals, which is considerably below the level of the normal EAGGF contribution of 25% towards structural improvement projects'¹. These amounts have not been increased under the proposed extension. The different figures result purely from the different rates for the old unit of account and the ECU.

	<u>Existing scheme</u>	<u>Proposed extension</u>
Cows	60 u.a. =	72.5 ECU
Other animals	30 u.a. =	36.25 ECU

11. It can be argued that the slower rate of take-up under the scheme has been due to the low level of compensation. This has been, of course, an even greater factor given the rate of inflation since 1978.

¹ Doc. 414/76, para 5.

If compensation is too low for producers, there will be pressures to avoid testing. And one should remember that the basic work will be carried out by veterinary surgeons whose livelihood may depend on the farmers whose herds they are testing.

The Member States had schemes for the eradication of these diseases before the entry into force of the Community directive in 1977. The aim of the directive was to accelerate existing schemes. Community funding was made available to facilitate this speeding up process.

A low level of financial participation by the Community will place a heavy burden on the finances of the Member States. This will result in programmes being implemented at a slower rate than envisaged by Community officials.

12. It is evident, therefore, that the level of Community participation should be increased. It was too low in the original directive, and has become grossly inadequate with the passing of time.

The Community's participation should be increased by at least 50%. At that level, compensation would still be excessively modest, but may ensure that the programme does not lose momentum.

13. Such an increase is not likely to lead to any additional long-term expenditure for the Community, for two reasons:

- (a) One of the aims of the directive is to help bring about a better balance in the dairy sector by the only truly effective measure known, i.e. the reduction in the number of cows;
- (b) inadequate funding will lead to ineffective measures, which will need to be extended more and more; and even be repeated in some regions. The actual savings will be illusory.

Proper monitoring

14. The overall success of the programmes will depend on the efficiency of the testing for reactor animals, and the degree of monitoring of results by the competent national authorities to ensure that all the requirements of the disease eradication scheme have been respected, including movement control as well as testing and identification.

Payment of compensation

15. In certain countries, farmers may have to wait a considerable time before being compensated for slaughter. This will obviously reduce the enthusiasm of farmers for the scheme. The Commission must ensure that these delays are reduced.

