

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1979 - 1980

23 April 1979

DOCUMENT 76/79

Motion for a Resolution ⁽¹⁾

tabled by Mr HUGHES

on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture

with request for debate by urgent procedure pursuant to Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure

on the urgent need for eradication measures to control nervous diseases in pigs

O. 2.1

(¹) Adopted unanimously at the meeting of the Committee on Agriculture of 4/5 April 1979

Present:

Mr Liogier, vice-chairman and acting chairman; Mr Ligios, vice-chairman; Mr Albertini (deputizing for Mr Hughes, rapporteur), Mrs Dunwoody, Mr L'Estrange, Mr Fuchs (deputizing for Mr Früh), Mr Hansen, Mr Klinker, Mr Müller W., Mr Nielsen, Mr Pisoni, Mr Tolman

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST FOR DEBATE BY URGENT PROCEDURE

Letter from the Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture to
Mr Emilio COLOMBO, President of the European Parliament

Rome, 5 April 1979

Dear Mr President,

At its meeting of 4 and 5 April, the Committee on Agriculture adopted a motion for a resolution tabled by Mr HUGHES on nervous diseases in pigs (PE.57.466).

In view of the grave danger which the diseases referred to in the resolution constitute for Community pigmeat producers, their rapid spread throughout the Community and the need to implement common preventive measures as soon as possible, the Committee on Agriculture wishes to urge the Commission to take every appropriate measure to control an already alarming situation as quickly as possible.

It is with this in mind that the resolution was tabled and that the Committee on Agriculture has decided to request an urgent debate under Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure at the April part-session of Parliament.

I should be grateful if you would submit this request to the Enlarged Bureau for a decision.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd.) Albert LIOGIER

Vice-Chairman and Acting Chairman

The European Parliament,

- whereas the Community should improve the health state of livestock in order to make livestock rearing more profitable,
 - whereas adequate protective measures against infectious diseases should be introduced,
 - whereas the outbreaks of nervous diseases in pigs are rapidly accelerating in all Member States except Denmark where effective eradication schemes have reduced the incidence of these diseases,
1. Expresses the utmost alarm at the escalation of outbreaks throughout the Community of Aujeszky's disease (otherwise known as pseudo-rabies) and streptococcal meningitis;
 2. Points out:
 - (a) that Aujeszky's disease, a viral disease of pigs, can cause death in very young pigs, as well as cattle, dogs and cats, and the abortion of unborn pigs;
 - (b) that streptococcal meningitis is a zoonosis (a disease transferable from animals to man) which may be dormant in the pig, giving rise to a symptomless carrier, and frequently results in the death of the pig;
 3. Emphasizes that it is of the utmost importance to control the spread of diseases so as to prevent the introduction of carrier pigs into clean herds and the sale of infected pigs as breeding stock;
 4. Notes that infected and carrier animals can be detected by a fairly simple blood test and so be eliminated from the herd;
 5. Urges, therefore, the Commission to introduce effective eradication measures, including:
 - (a) the sample testing of herds and health rules concerning intra-Community trade;
 - (b) the vaccination of herds;
 - (c) Compensatory measures to encourage the slaughter and restocking of severely affected units;
 6. Points out that the relatively low incidence of these diseases at the moment constitutes an ideal situation in which to introduce an eradication scheme;
 7. Requests the Commission to study the cost-effectiveness of the eradication scheme and to include nervous diseases in pigs within the Community's agricultural research programmes.
 8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.

