

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

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DOCUMENT 129/79

## Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture

**on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 620/78) for a directive establishing measures for the implementation of Directive 77/439/EEC on the protection of animals during international transport**

**Rapporteur : Mr P. BRUGGER**



By letter of 8 February 1979 the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament, pursuant to Articles 43 and 100 of the EEC Treaty, to deliver an opinion on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a Council directive establishing measures for the implementation of Directive 77/489/EEC on the protection of animals during international transport.

The President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Agriculture.

At its meeting of 19/20 February 1979, the Committee on Agriculture decided to apply the procedure without report.

On 16 March 1979, at the request of Mr Pisoni, Mr Ligios and Mr Brugger, the European Parliament decided not to adopt the procedure without report. The proposal was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, pursuant to Rule 27A(7) of the Rules of Procedure.

On 4 April 1979 the Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr P. BRUGGER rapporteur.

It considered the proposal for a directive at its meeting of 24 April 1979 and at the same meeting unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution and the explanatory statement.

Present: Mr Caillavet, chairman; Mr Pisoni (deputizing for the rapporteur), Mr Albertini, Mr Brégégère, Mr Dewulf, Mr Durand, Mr Früh, Mr Inchauspé, Mr Lemp and Mr W. Müller.

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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

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a directive establishing measures for the implementation of Directive 77/489/EEC on the protection of animals during international transport

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council<sup>1</sup>,
- having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Articles 43 and 100 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 520/78),
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture (Doc. 129/79),
- having regard to Directive 77/489/EEC of 18 July 1977 on the protection of animals during international transport<sup>2</sup>,
- whereas existing provisions stipulate that animals must be accompanied by a health certificate issued, after inspection, by an official veterinarian of the exporting country
- whereas the requirement of a second certificate attesting, on the basis of intermediate inspections, compliance with the provisions of the directive on the protection of animals during international transport therefore constitutes an unnecessary obstacle to intra-Community trade, involving delays and increased costs,
- whereas inspection by a veterinarian of the importing country and his attestation that the animals are in good condition after transport will suffice to ensure compliance with the provisions of the directive,

requests the Commission to reconsider its proposal, in order to examine its implications for intra-Community trade in animals and, if possible, to propose alternative solutions.

<sup>1</sup>OJ No. C 41, 14.2.1979, p.4

<sup>2</sup>OJ No. L 200, 8.8.1977, p. 10

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. A proposal has been submitted to the European Parliament concerning the implementation of the Council Directive of 18 July 1977 on the protection of animals during international transport, on which the European Parliament has already delivered a favourable opinion.

As regards the implementation of the general provisions on the protection of animals, it is stipulated that the Member States must issue certificates attesting that the animals are being treated in accordance with the provisions of the directive. These certificates relate to the loading, unloading, arrival at destination, feeding and watering of the animals during the journey.

2. Other implementing measures concerning the care of the animals, the biological, physiological and ethological requirements of the animals before, during and after the journey, the means of transport and the method of loading and unloading, will be adopted in accordance with the procedure involving the participation of the Standing Veterinary Committee, under which the Commission adopts measures which must be implemented immediately where they are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee.

3. However, the Committee on Agriculture expressed considerable doubts about the introduction of a new certificate, in addition to the health certificate already required, as this would make intra-Community trade more difficult and costly.

Other, less complicated solutions might be proposed, such as a more thoroughgoing health inspection of animals on arrival. The committee on Agriculture asks the Commission to reconsider its proposal and propose alternative solutions.