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Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Budgets

on the proposals from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 520/77) for a decision on the financing of the surveys to be carried out by the Member States on the bovine livestock

Rapporteur: Mr A. TERRENOIRE

PE 52.572/fin.

By letter of 31 January 1978 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 decision on the financing of the surveys to be carried out by the Member States on the bovine livestock.

On 14 February 1978 this proposal was referred to the Committee on Budgets as the committee responsible.

On 1 March 1978 the Committee on Budgets appointed Mr Terrenoire rapporteur.

It considered this proposal at its meeting of 1/2 March 1978.

At the same meeting the committee unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution.

Present: Mr Lange, chairman and deputizing for the rapporteur; Mr Aigner, vice-chairman; Lord Bruce of Donington, Mr Caillavet, Mrs Dahlerup, Mr Ryan, Mr Scott-Hopkins, Mr Shaw and Mr Spinelli.

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A

The Committee on Budgets 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 decision on the financing of the surveys to be carried out by the Member States on the bovine livestock

The European Parliament

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (COM(77) 706 final),
 - having been consulted by the Council on 31 January 1978 (Doc. 520/77),
 - having regard to the Council Directive 73/132/EEC of 15 May 1973 on the statistical surveys to be carried out by Member States on bovine livestock, on forecasts on the availability of bovine animals for slaughter and on statistics on slaughtered bovine animals,¹
 - having regard to the Council Decision 76/581/EEC of 29 June 1976 on the continuation of the statistical surveys on bovine livestock to be carried out by the Member States,²
 - having regard to its own opinion on that proposal,³
 - having regard to the report of its Committee on Budgets, (Doc.578/77),
1. Approves the proposal for a decision permitting the financing of statistical surveys on bovine livestock, by the budget of the European Communities;
 2. Deplores the inadequacy of the financial statement attached to the Commission's proposal which is not in conformity with the model of financial statements promised by the Commission⁴ and sought by the European Parliament on many occasions.

¹ OJ No. L 153, 9.6.1973, p.25

² OJ No. L 189, 13.7.1976, p.15

³ OJ No. C 159, 12.7.1976, p.40

⁴ PE 17.914

3. Asks the Commission to submit to it, as soon as possible, a revised financial statement that would enable a realistic assessment to be made of the financial consequences of the proposals.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENTIntroduction

1. The European Parliament has been consulted on the financing of statistical surveys on bovine livestock in the different Member States. The need for such surveys has been recognised by the European Parliament in the past.¹ There is no reason for a discontinuation of such surveys which add to the body of information necessary for the Commission to draw up adequate forecasts of expenditure and proposals for pricing in the beef sector.

Financial impact of the Commission's proposal

2. The cost of the surveys to be borne by the Community budget amounts to 1,800,000 u.a. under budgetary heading Article 264 'Statistical studies and surveys'. In the 1978 general budget, a total of 7,800,000 EUA was included for this item, which is intended to cover seven specific studies, including that decided under Directive 73/132/EEC of 15 May 1973.² The Commission does not state whether the appropriations can be covered by existing amounts in the 1978 budget.

Observations of the Committee on Budgets

3. The Committee on Budgets

- (i) approves the provisions of Article 1 of the draft Decision which indicates that the expenditure necessary to finance these surveys will be decided annually in the context of the Community budgetary procedure.

As regards the financial statement

- (ii) regrets the fact that the Commission has not made this financial statement available in all Community languages;
- (iii) deplores the fact that the information included in this financial statement is not an adequate reflection of the frequently expressed desire of the European Parliament to have sufficient and exhaustive financial information about Commission proposals, thus permitting it to make a realistic assessment of the value and feasibility of the proposal;

¹ OJ No. C 159, 12.7.76, p.40

² OJ No. L 153, 9.6.73, p.25

- (iv) in particular, cannot accept that no detailed justification as to the different figures for the lump sum participation by the Community in the costs of the statistical surveys carried out by the Member States is provided;
- (v) cannot accept either, that there is no explanation within the budget as to the means of covering this expenditure in 1978 - in particular it will be seen under point 10, 'Imputation de la dépense', reference is made to the 1977 budget.

Conclusion

4 . The Committee on Budgets thus recommends to the European Parliament that, whilst it proposes continuing the financing of these statistical surveys on bovine livestock through the Community budget, it seeks the withdrawal of the inadequate financial statement provided by the Commission and the submission of a new statement which can permit the Committee on Budgets to make a realistic assessment of the proposal.