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and annex

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture

on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 83/76) for a decision on the continuation of the surveys to be carried out by the Member States on bovine livestock

Rapporteur: Mr L. MARTENS

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PE 44.629/fin.

By letter of 23 April 1976 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 decision on the continuation of the surveys to be carried out by the Member States on bovine livestock.

On 10 May 1976 the President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Agriculture as the committee responsible and the Committee on Budgets as the committee asked for its opinion.

The Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr McDonald rapporteur on 18 May 1976. Mr McDonald was replaced by Mr Martens on 19 May 1976.

It considered this proposal at its meeting of 18 and 19 May 1976.

At the same meeting the committee unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution and the explanatory statement, with one abstention.

The following were present : Mr Liogier, vice-chairman and acting chairman; Mr Vetrone, vice-chairman; Mr Martens, rapporteur; Mrs Dunwoody, Mr Hughes, Mr Früh, Mr Kofoed, Mr Ligios, Lord St. Oswald, Mr Scott-Hopkins, Mr Suck and Lord Walston.

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A

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 decision on the continuation of the surveys to be carried out by the Member States on bovine livestock

The European Parliament

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council¹,
- having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 83/76),
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (Doc. 124/76);

approves the Commission's proposal.

¹ OJ No. C 94, 27.4.1976, p. 7

EXPLANATORY STATEMENTThe purpose of the Commission's proposal

1. The purpose of the proposed decision is to provide for the continuation of the surveys carried out by Member States on bovine livestock.

Directive 73/132/EEC¹ laid down that the first of the surveys should take place in 1973, and that their continuation after 31 December 1975 should be conditional on a Council decision on methods of financing.

2. 1.8 m.u.a. (as against 1.6 m.u.a. previously) is to be allocated in the Community Budget each year for 1976, 1977 and 1978, under Article 264.

3. Complete and comparable statistics on likely beef production are essential, both to the Commission in carrying out its market policy and to professional organisations acting to regulate supply to demand.

In the past, the Committee on Agriculture has stressed the importance of such surveys to market stability², and the present proposal can be approved.

4. However, a certain number of observations can be made.

Firstly, Directive 73/132/EEC states (Article 11.2) that the continuation of these surveys after 31 December 1975 shall be conditional on a decision of the Council, acting before that date on a proposal from the Commission on methods of financing.

It is evident that such surveys are required. A proposal of two articles surely presents no particular drafting problems. There would appear to be no reason for the lamentably late submission of the proposal with the totally unnecessary request that the European Parliament give its opinion in the shortest time possible.

Your rapporteur would point out that the appropriations to be authorised by this proposed directive have already been entered in the 1976 Budget. These unnecessary delays on the part of the Commission in bringing forward proposals make nonsense of budgetary procedures.

¹ OJ No L 153, 9.6.1973, p. 25.

² Report drawn up by Mr Durieux, Doc. 76/72.

5. Secondly, in the report drawn up by Mr Durieux¹ on the proposal for Directive 73/12/EEC, the Committee on Agriculture requested that the directive be applied in collaboration with the working group responsible for questions on foreign trade, NIMEXE, so that the surveys could be made more complete by the adjustment to take into account foreign trade statistics.

Article 8 of Directive 73/132/EEC provided for consultation between the Standing Committee on Agricultural Statistics and the NIMEXE Committee. This article has remained, however, a dead letter. The Commission should act more urgently to remove the obstacles to an effective collaboration.

6. Thirdly, the Committee on Agriculture notes that, according to Article 10 of Directive 73/132/EEC, the Commission shall submit a first report to the European Parliament and the Council in 1976 on the experience gained from the surveys. The Committee on Agriculture requests the Commission to respect this deadline.

¹ Doc. 76/72

