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REPORT

on the proposal for a European Parliament and Council regulation establishing a system for the identification and registration of bovine animals and regarding the labelling of beef and beef products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 820/97
(COM(1999) 487 – C5-0240/1999 – 1999/0204)

Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy

Rapporteur: Mihail Papayannakis

Draftsman: Heinz Kindermann, Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

(* Hughes procedure)

| <i>Symbols for procedures</i> | <i>Abbreviations for committees</i> |
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| <p>* Consultation procedure <i>majority of the votes cast</i></p> <p>**I Cooperation procedure (first reading) <i>majority of the votes cast</i></p> <p>**II Cooperation procedure (second reading) <i>majority of the votes cast, to approve the common position</i> <i>majority of Parliament's component Members, to reject or amend the common position</i></p> <p>*** Assent procedure <i>majority of Parliament's component Members except in cases covered by Articles 105, 107, 161 and 300 of the EC Treaty and Article 7 of the EU Treaty</i></p> <p>***I Codecision procedure (first reading) <i>majority of the votes cast</i></p> <p>***II Codecision procedure (second reading) <i>majority of the votes cast, to approve the common position</i> <i>majority of Parliament's component Members, to reject or amend the common position</i></p> <p>***III Codecision procedure (third reading) <i>majority of the votes cast, to approve the joint text</i></p> <p>(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the Commission)</p> | <p>I. AFET Committee on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security and Defence Policy</p> <p>II. BUDG Committee on Budgets</p> <p>III. CONT Committee on Budgetary Control</p> <p>IV. LIBE Committee on Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs</p> <p>V. ECON Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs</p> <p>VI. JURI Committee on Legal Affairs and the Internal Market</p> <p>VII. INDU Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy</p> <p>VIII. EMPL Committee on Employment and Social Affairs</p> <p>IX. ENVI Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy</p> <p>X. AGRI Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development</p> <p>XI. PECH Committee on Fisheries</p> <p>XII. REGI Committee on Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism</p> <p>XIII. CULT Committee on Culture, Youth, Education, the Media and Sport</p> <p>XIV. DEVE Committee on Development and Cooperation</p> <p>XV. AFCO Committee on Constitutional Affairs</p> <p>XVI. FEMM Committee on Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities</p> <p>XVII. PETI Committee on Petitions</p> |

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PROCEDURAL PAGE

By letter of 27 October 1999 the Commission submitted to Parliament, pursuant to Article 251(2) and Article 152 of the EC Treaty, the proposal for a European Parliament and Council regulation establishing a system for the identification and registration of bovine animals and regarding the labelling of beef and beef products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 820/97 (COM(1999) 487 - 1999/0204(COD)).

At the sitting of 15 November 1999 the President of Parliament announced that she had referred this proposal to the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy as the committee responsible and the Committee on Budgets and the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development for their opinions (C5-0240/1999).

At the sitting of 19 November 1999 the President of Parliament announced that the report would be drawn up under the Hughes procedure with the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, which had been asked for its opinion.

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy appointed Mihail Papayannakis rapporteur at its meeting of 24 November 1999.

It considered the Commission proposal and draft report at its meetings of 26 January, 23 February and 21 March 2000.

At the last meeting it adopted the draft legislative resolution unanimously.

The following were present for the vote: Caroline Jackson, chairman; Alexander de Roo, Carlos Lage, Ria G.H.C. Oomen-Ruijten, vice-chairmen; Mihail Papayannakis, rapporteur; Per-Arne Arvidsson, Maria del Pilar Ayuso González, Hans Blokland, David Robert Bowe, John Bowis (Philip Rodway Bushill-Matthews), Hiltrud Breyer, Dorette Corbey, Chris Davies, Marielle de Sarnez (for Carlo Fatuzzo), Avril Doyle, Marialiese Flemming, Karl-Heinz Florenz, Cristina García Orcoyen Tormo (for Ursula Schleicher), Laura González Álvarez, Robert Goodwill, Françoise D. Grossetête, Cristina Gutiérrez Cortines, Roger Helmer, Anneli Hulthén (for Catherine Guy-Quint), Marie Anne Isler Béguin, Christa Kläß, Eija-Riitta Anneli Korhola (for Renate Sommer), Hans Kronberger, Bernd Lange, Marie-Noëlle Lienemann, Peter Liese (for Robert William Sturdy), Torben Lund, Jules Maaten, Minerva Melpomeni Malliori (for Kathleen Van Brempt), Patricia Mckenna, Jorge Moreira Da Silva, Emilia Franziska Müller (for Francesco Fiori), Rosemarie Müller, Riitta Myller, Giuseppe Nisticò, Karl Erik Olsson, Béatrice Patrie, Marit Paulsen, Frédérique Ries (for Niels Busk), Guido Sacconi, Jean Saint-Josse (for Jean-Louis Bernié), Karin Scheele (for Mary Honeyball), Inger Schörling (for Bart Staes), Jonas Sjöstedt (for Emmanouil Bakopoulos), María Sornosa Martínez, Catherine Taylor, Nicole Thomas-Mauro, Antonios Trakatellis and Phillip Whitehead.

The opinion of the Committee on Agricultural and Rural Development is attached; the Committee on Budgets decided on 7 December 1999 not to deliver an opinion.

The report was tabled on 27 March 2000.

The deadline for tabling amendments will be indicated in the draft agenda for the relevant part-session.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council regulation establishing a system for the identification and registration of bovine animals and regarding the labelling of beef and beef products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 820/97

(COM(1999) 487 – C5-0240 – 1999/0204(COD))

The proposal is amended as follows:

Text proposed by the Commission ¹

Amendments by Parliament

(Amendment 1)
Recital 1

(1) Article 19 of Council Regulation (EC) No 820/97 establishing a system for the identification and registration of bovine animals and regarding the labelling of beef and beef products, lays down that a compulsory beef labelling system shall be introduced, which shall be obligatory in all Member States, from 1 January 2001 onwards. On the basis of a Commission proposal, the same Article also states that the general rules for that compulsory system shall be decided before that date.

(1) Article 19 of Council Regulation (EC) No 820/97 establishing a system for the identification and registration of bovine animals and regarding the labelling of beef and beef products, lays down that a compulsory beef labelling system shall be introduced, which shall be obligatory in all Member States, from 1 September 2000 onwards. On the basis of a Commission proposal, the same Article also states that the general rules for that compulsory system shall be decided before that date.

Justification:

Date brought into line with the European Parliament's decision of 16 December 1999.

(Amendment 2)
Recital 1a (new)

(1a) Council Regulation (EC) No 2772/1999 of 21 December 1999 providing for the general rules for a compulsory beef labelling system^(4a) specifies that such general rules for a compulsory beef labelling system are to be applicable only on a provisional basis, for a maximum period of eight months, i.e. from 1 January

¹ OJ C 376, 28.12.1999, p. 42.

to 31 August 2000.

^(4a) OJ L 334, 28.12.1999, p. 1

Justification:

This amendment refers to Council Regulation (EC) No 2772/1999, which extends the voluntary labelling system laid down in Regulation (EC) No 820/97 to 31 August 2000.

(Amendment 3)

Recital 2

(2) It is appropriate to include those general rules into Regulation (EC) No 820/97. For reasons of clarity that Regulation should be repealed and replaced by a new Regulation.

(2) For reasons of clarity Regulation (EC) No 820/97 should be repealed and replaced by a new Regulation.

Justification:

This recital should be simplified for reasons of clarity.

(Amendment 4)

Recital 3

(3) As a consequence of the instability in the market in beef and beef products caused by the bovine spongiform encephalopathy crisis, the improvement in the transparency of the conditions for the production and marketing of the products concerned, particularly as regards traceability, has exerted a positive influence on consumption of beef. To maintain and strengthen this consumer confidence in beef, it is necessary to develop the framework in which the information is made available to consumers on the label.

(3) As a consequence of the instability in the market in beef and beef products caused by the bovine spongiform encephalopathy crisis, the improvement in the transparency of the conditions for the production and marketing of the products concerned, particularly as regards traceability, has exerted a positive influence on consumption of beef. To maintain and strengthen this consumer confidence in beef and to prevent consumers from being misled, it is necessary to develop the framework in which the information is made available to consumers on the label.

Justification:

This amendment is aimed at strengthening consumer protection in terms of the information made available to consumers on the label.

(Amendment 5)

Recital 5

(5) By means of the guarantees provided for such an improvement, certain public interest requirements will also be attained, in particular the protection of human and animal health. Therefore, the appropriate legal basis for this Regulation is Article 152 of the Treaty.

(5) By means of the guarantees provided for such an improvement, certain public interest requirements will be attained, in particular the protection of human and animal health. Therefore, the appropriate legal basis for this Regulation is Article 152 of the Treaty.

Justification:

The attainment of the specified public interest requirements, in particular the protection of human and animal health, is not an incidental consequence of this Regulation but in fact constitutes the reason for this proposal.

(Amendment 6)
Recital 13a (new)

(13a) Member States are called upon to ensure that their computerised databases are fully operational as soon as possible, in accordance with Regulation 820/97.

Justification:

Pursuant to Regulation 820/97, computerised databases had to be fully operational by 31 December 1999 at the latest. This is not the case in some Member States, however. Properly functioning databases in all Member States are essential for ensuring that no problems occur with regard to traceability.

(Amendment 7)
Recital 17

Every animal must keep its eartag throughout its life

Every animal must keep its eartag throughout its life. Should eartags become accidentally detached, these should be replaced within a reasonable time.

Justification:

To allow for practicalities of replacing eartags under new rules that mean that numbers must be retained and replacement tags made to order.

(Amendment 8)
Recital 18

The Commission is examining on the basis

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of work performed by the Joint Research Centre the feasibility of using electronic means for the identification of animals.

of work performed by the Joint Research Centre the feasibility of using electronic means for the identification of animals.

Research is at present working on the identification of bovine animals using an 'immunological eartag'. Parliament is open to these developments and supports the work being carried out.

Justification:

When such identification is sufficiently advanced, it will be suitable for guaranteeing more effective protection against the opportunities for abuse than the current possibilities for identification.

(Amendment 9)
Recital 23

A compulsory beef labelling system shall be introduced which is obligatory in all Member States. Under this compulsory system, operators and organisations marketing beef shall indicate on the label information about certain characteristics of the beef and the point of slaughter of the animal or animals from which that beef was derived.

A compulsory beef labelling system shall be introduced which is obligatory in all Member States from the date of entry into force of this regulation. Under this compulsory system, operators and organisations marketing beef shall indicate on the label information including the places of birth, rearing and slaughter of the animal or animals from which the beef was derived.

Justification:

As early as 1997, Regulation (EC) No 820/97 stipulated that the obligation in question would apply from 1 January 2000. The Commission is proposing to put that date back to 1 January 2003, contrary to its promises to European consumers. It must be applied from 1 September 2001 (in accordance with Amendment 28). The Commission maintains, however, that some Member States are not yet in a position to specify the places of birth and rearing. Given that the system was laid down as long ago as 1997, these difficulties must not delay its implementation in the Community as a whole.

Once the Regulation has been adopted, the minimum requirement entailed under the mandatory rules governing labelling must be to indicate an animal's origin (place of birth, rearing, and slaughter). Exceptions, for which reasons would have to be provided, could nevertheless be made for individual Member States if their arrangements were such that they could not supply reliable indications of origin. Under no circumstances should those exceptions cause enforcement of the obligations to be delayed beyond 1 January 2003. They do not, in any event, constitute an obstacle to trade.

(Amendment 10)
Recital 24

The compulsory beef labelling system shall be reinforced from 1 January 2003. Under this compulsory system, operators and organisations marketing beef shall, in addition, indicate on the label information concerning origin, in particular where the animal or animals from which the beef was derived were born, reared and slaughtered. Deleted

Justification:

As early as 1997, Regulation (EC) No 820/97 stipulated that the obligation in question would apply from 1 January 2000. The Commission is proposing to put that date back to 1 January 2003, contrary to its promises to European consumers. It must be applied from 1 September 2001 (in accordance with Amendment 28). The Commission maintains, however, that some Member States are not yet in a position to specify the places of birth and rearing. Given that the system was laid down as long ago as 1997, these difficulties must not delay its implementation in the Community as a whole.

Once the Regulation has been adopted, the minimum requirement entailed under the mandatory rules governing labelling must be to indicate an animal's origin (place of birth, rearing, and slaughter). Exceptions, for which reasons would have to be provided, could nevertheless be made for individual Member States if their arrangements were such that they could not supply reliable indications of origin. Under no circumstances should those exceptions cause enforcement of the obligations to be delayed beyond 1 January 2003. They do not, in any event, constitute an obstacle to trade.

(Amendment 11)
Recital 25

The date of 1 January 2003 is the earliest date by which it is feasible to introduce the compulsory labelling of origin. The principal reason for not introducing compulsory labelling of origin before 1 January 2003 is that full information on movements made by bovine animals in the Community is only required for animals born after 1 January 1998. Deleted

Justification:

As early as 1997, Regulation (EC) No 820/97 stipulated that the obligation in question would

apply from 1 January 2000. The Commission is proposing to put that date back to 1 January 2003, contrary to its promises to European consumers. It must be applied from 1 September 2001 (in accordance with Amendment 28). The Commission maintains, however, that some Member States are not yet in a position to specify the places of birth and rearing. Given that the system was laid down as long ago as 1997, these difficulties must not delay its implementation in the Community as a whole.

Once the Regulation has been adopted, the minimum requirement entailed under the mandatory rules governing labelling must be to indicate an animal's origin (place of birth, rearing, and slaughter). Exceptions, for which reasons would have to be provided, could nevertheless be made for individual Member States if their arrangements were such that they could not supply reliable indications of origin. Under no circumstances should those exceptions cause enforcement of the obligations to be delayed beyond 1 January 2003. They do not, in any event, constitute an obstacle to trade.

(Amendment 12)
Recital 26

(26) In terms of the public interest requirement, the compulsory beef labelling system shall also apply to beef imported into the Community. However, provision must be made for the fact that not all the information required for the indication of origin on the label may be available to a third country operator or organisation. It is therefore necessary to state the minimum information that shall be indicated on the label by third countries.

(26) In terms of the public interest requirement, the compulsory beef labelling system must also apply to beef imported into the Community. If not all the information laid down in this Regulation is available to a third-country operator or organisation, a clear indication to this effect must be provided.

Justification:

Beef from third countries must in principle be subject to the same rules as beef from the EU. If not all the information required pursuant to Article 13 is obtainable, a clear indication to this effect must be provided.

(Amendment 13)
Recital 27

(27) For operators or organisations producing and marketing minced beef, beef trimmings or cut beef and operators or organisations exporting beef from third countries to the Community, who may not be in a position to provide all the information required under the compulsory

Deleted

beef labelling system, exceptions ensuring a certain minimum number of indications must be provided.

Justification:

The derogations from the compulsory labelling system which this Article provides for with regard to minced beef, beef trimmings or cut beef are not warranted in view of the public health objectives pursued.

(Amendment 14)
Recital 28

(28) The objective of labelling is to give Deleted
the maximum transparency in the
marketing of beef. It is therefore
appropriate that those operators and
organisations that choose to market their
beef under a label which ensures
traceability to the individual animal, should
be permitted to label beef with a specific
logo.

Justification:

The provisions of this Regulation concerning the traceability of beef must be adhered to by all operators or organisations. Furthermore, a proliferation of the logos to be applied to labels ought to be avoided.

(Amendment 15)
Recital 28a (new)

The provisions of this Regulation should not undermine existing Community legislation on the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin (Council Regulations number 2081/92 and 2082/92 respectively).

Justification:

In the present Commission proposal, there is no clear reference to Community legislation on (as provided in the original Regulation 820/97) protected geographical indications or products of designated origin. It is important that these existing and successful Community schemes are incorporated into the amended Regulation.

(Amendment 16)

Recital 31

(31) The change from the arrangements in Title II of Regulation (EC) No 820/97 to those in this Regulation could give rise to difficulties that are not dealt with in this Regulation. In order to deal with that eventuality, provision should be made for the Commission to adopt the necessary transitional measures. The Commission should also be authorised to solve specific practical problems.

(31) The change from the arrangements in Title II of Regulation (EC) No 820/97 to those in this Regulation could give rise to difficulties that are not dealt with in this Regulation. In order to deal with that eventuality, provision should be made for the Commission to adopt the necessary transitional measures.

Justification:

This provision is not precise enough and leaves the Commission with an unlimited power of discretion. Moreover, the measures in question may be covered by the provisions of Article 20(2)(a).

(Amendment 17)

Article 4(6)

6. The eartags shall be allocated to the holding, distributed and applied to the animals in a manner determined by the competent authority.

6. The eartags shall be allocated to the holding, distributed and applied to the animals in a manner determined by the competent authority. The distribution of eartags shall be recorded in the passport.

Justification:

The identification using eartags is such a significant procedure for subsequent traceability of the animal that it must be recorded in the passport.

(Amendment 18)

Article 6(3), first indent

- which have a computerised database which the Commission deems to be fully operational before 1 January 2000 in accordance with Article 5 may determine that a passport is to be issued only for animals intended for intra-Community trade and that those animals shall be accompanied by their passports only where they are

- which have a computerised database which the Commission deems to be fully operational in accordance with Article 5 may determine that a passport is to be issued only for animals intended for intra-Community trade and that those animals shall be accompanied by their passports only where they are moved from the territory of the

moved from the territory of the Member State concerned to the territory of another Member State, in which case the passport shall contain information based on the computerised database.

Member State concerned to the territory of another Member State, in which case the passport shall contain information based on the computerised database.

Justification

This amendment has been tabled to delete the cut-off dates for derogations, which have already expired.

(Amendment 19)
Article 7(1), second indent

- once the computerised database is fully operational, report to the competent authority all movements to and from the holding and all births and deaths of animals on the holding, along with the dates of these events, within 15 days and, as from 1 January 2000, within seven days of the event occurring.

However, at the request of a Member State and in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 10, the Commission may determine the circumstances in which Member States may extend the maximum period.

- once the computerised database is fully operational, report to the competent authority all movements to and from the holding and all births and deaths of animals on the holding, along with the dates of these events, within seven days of the event occurring.

However, at the request of a Member State and in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 10, the Commission may determine the circumstances in which Member States may extend the maximum period and shall lay down specific rules for the purposes of driving animals to mountain pasture and their remaining there during the summer months.

Justification

This amendment has been tabled to delete the cut-off dates for derogations, which have already expired.

Every spring some 300 000 head of cattle in Austria alone and 54 000 in Bavaria alone are driven to mountain pasture and remain there for about three months. Animals from different holdings are looked after together. The existing livestock supply lists already make it possible to identify the holding to which an individual animal belongs. Additional registration for the purposes of driving cattle to and down from mountain pasture would entail unnecessary red tape. Traceability must continue to be guaranteed at all times, but the rules have to be sensible and practical.

(Amendment 20)

Article 10, first sentence

Without prejudice to Article 8 of Council Decision 1999/468/EC, the Commission shall adopt detailed rules for the implementation of this Title in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 13 of Council Regulation (EC) 1258/99.

The Commission, assisted by the Standing Veterinary Committee set up under Article 5 of Decision 68/361/EEC acting in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 5 of Decision 1999/468/EC and without prejudice to the provisions of Articles 7 and 8 thereof, shall adopt detailed rules for the implementation of this Title. The period referred to in Article 5(6) of Decision 1999/468/EC shall be three months.

Justification:

Under this amendment the Standing Veterinary Committee, and not the EAGGF Committee, would be made responsible for checking the identification of bovine animals.

(Amendment 21)
Article 11, first indent

– is required, by virtue of section I of this Title, to label beef at the point of sale and/or,

– is required, by virtue of section I of this Title, to label beef at all stages of marketing and/or,

Justification:

In the interests of ensuring traceability, beef must be labelled not only at the point of sale to the final consumer but at all stages of marketing, including, for instance, when it is delivered to processing establishments.

(Amendment 22)
Article 11, second subparagraph

However, this Title shall apply without prejudice to the provisions laid down in Council Directive 79/112/EEC.

This Title shall apply without prejudice to the relevant Community legislation.

Justification:

Community legislation on the beef sector must continue to apply in its entirety.

(Amendment 23)
Article 12, second indent

-labelling' shall mean the attachment of a label to an individual piece or pieces of meat or to their packaging material, including the supply of information to the consumer at the point of sale,

-labelling' shall mean the attachment of a label to an individual piece or pieces of meat or to their packaging material, or in the case of products that are not packaged, the appropriate information in written and visible form provided for the consumer at the point of sale,

Justification:

This Amendment concerns small retail outlets in which the pieces of meat are usually not packed and labelled. It is necessary to ensure that information in written and visible form is easily accessible and supplied to consumers.

(Amendment 24)
Article 13(1) first subparagraph

1. Operators and organisations marketing beef in the Community shall label it in accordance with the provisions of this Article.

1. Operators and organisations marketing beef in the Community shall label it in accordance with the provisions of this Article from 1 January 2001 onwards.

Justification:

As early as 1997, Regulation (EC) No 820/97 stipulated that the obligation in question would apply from 1 January 2000. The Commission is proposing to put that date back to 1 January 2003, contrary to its promises to European consumers. Such a delay is unacceptable. Labelling including compulsory indication of origin must therefore be introduced as soon as possible.

(Amendment 25)
Article 13(2)

2. The label shall contain the following indications:

- a reference number or reference code ensuring the link between the meat and the animal or animals. This number may be the identification number of the individual animal from which the beef was derived or the identification number relating to a group of animals,

2. The label shall contain the following indications:

- a reference number or reference code ensuring the link between the meat and the animal or animals. This number may be the identification number of the individual animal from which the beef was derived or the identification number relating to a group of animals,

- the approval number of the slaughterhouse at which the animal or group of animals was slaughtered and the region or Member State or third country in which the slaughterhouse is established. The indication shall read: "Slaughtered in [name of the region or Member State or third country] [approval number]",

- the approval number of the de-boning hall at which the carcass or group of carcasses were de-boned and the region or Member State or third country in which the de-boning hall is established. The indication shall read: "De-boned in: [name of the region or Member State or third country] [approval number]",

- the category of animal or animals from which the beef was derived,

- date of slaughter of the animal or group of animals from which the beef was derived,

- ideal minimum maturation period of the beef.

- the approval number of the slaughterhouse at which the animal or group of animals was slaughtered and the Member State or third country in which the slaughterhouse is established. The indication shall read: "Slaughtered in [name of the Member State or third country and approval number",

- the approval number of the de-boning hall at which the carcass or group of carcasses were de-boned and the Member State or third country in which the de-boning hall is established. The indication shall read: "De-boned in: [name of the Member State or third country] [approval number]",

Deleted

- date of slaughter of the animal or group of animals from which the beef was derived,

Deleted

Justification:

The purpose of this amendment is to streamline labelling by ensuring that only the information needed to trace the beef back to the animal from which it was derived appears on the label, and not information which is of little practical use to the great majority of consumers. Consumers are also more effectively informed by indicating the Member State or third country of origin, rather than the region of origin of the meat.

As early as 1997, Regulation (EC) No 820/97 stipulated that the obligation in question would apply from 1 January 2000. The Commission is proposing to put that date back to 1 January 2003, contrary to its promises to European consumers. Labelling including compulsory indication of origin must be introduced immediately on entry into force of the Regulation. The Commission maintains, however, that some Member States are not yet in a position to specify the places of birth and rearing. Given that the system was laid down as long ago as 1997, these difficulties must not delay its implementation in the Community as a whole.

Once the Regulation has been adopted, the minimum requirement entailed under the mandatory rules governing labelling must be to indicate an animal's origin (place of birth, rearing, and slaughter). Exceptions, for which reasons would have to be provided, could nevertheless be made for individual Member States if their arrangements were such that they could not supply reliable indications of origin. Under no circumstances should those exceptions cause enforcement of the obligations to be delayed beyond 1 January 2003. They

do not, in any event, constitute an obstacle to trade.

(Amendment 26)
Article 13(5) first subparagraph

5. As from 1 January 2003, operators and organisations shall indicate also on the labels:

- Member State, region or holding, or third country, of birth,
- all Member States, regions or holdings, or third countries, where fattening took place,
- Member State, region or slaughterhouse, or third country, where slaughter took place,
- Member State, region or de-boning hall, or third country, where de-boning took place.

5. As from 1 January 2001, operators and organisations shall indicate also on the labels:

- Member State or third country, of birth,
- all Member States or third countries, where fattening took place,
- Member State or third country where slaughter took place,
- Deleted

Justification:

The purpose of this amendment is to streamline labelling by ensuring that only the information needed to trace the beef back to the animal from which it was derived appears on the label, and not information which is of little practical use to the great majority of consumers. Consumers are also more effectively informed by indicating the Member State or third country of origin, rather than the region of origin of the meat.

Due to the fact that it is technically feasible at an earlier stage the compulsory and complete labelling shall not be postponed until 2003.

(Amendment 27)
Article 13(5) subparagraph 1a (new)

For animals born before the entry into force of the compulsory registration on 1.1.98, whose place of birth can not be clearly identified according to this regulation, the following additional indication must appear on the label:

"*: Birth not registered (before 1.1.98)"

Justification:

In the foreseeable future, there will still be animals which have not been registered according to the rules of Regulation (EC) No 820/97. In order to introduce the compulsory and

complete labelling scheme earlier than planned by the Commission and as this group of animals is continuously decreasing in number, it is fully sufficient to introduce a specific rule, which informs the consumers about the incomplete traceability of the respective animal.

(Amendment 28)
Article 13(5), second subparagraph

However, where the beef is derived from animals born, raised, slaughtered and deboned:

- in the same Member State, the indication may be given as either "Origin: [name of Member State]", or "Origin: EC";

- in more than one Member State, the indication may be given as either "Origin: EC", or "Origin: more than one Member State of the EC";

- in one or more Member State and one or more third country, the indication may be given as "Origin: EC and Non-EC";

- in one or more third country, the indication may be given as either "Origin: [name of third country or countries]", or "Origin: Non-EC".

However, where the beef is derived from animals born, raised and slaughtered:

- in the same Member State, the indication may be given as either "Origin: [name of Member State]";

- in more than one Member State, the indication may be given as "Origin: [names of Member States]";

Delete

- in one or more third country, the indication may be given as either "Origin: [name of third country or countries]", or "Origin: Non-EC".

Justification:

This amendment is intended to ensure that consumers are more effectively informed as to the origin of the meat.

Catch-all terms such as 'EC' are unacceptable because they do not convey sufficient information to consumers. Even when beef is obtained from animals born, kept, and slaughtered in several Member States, those Member States must be named. Consumers need to be reassured that operators are able to keep track of the origin of meat. A sweeping indication along the lines of 'Origin: EC' would not dispel their very intense anxiety. However, when the three stages of birth, rearing, and slaughter have taken place in the same country, there is no need to state the same name three times over.

(Amendment 29)
Article 13(5) a (new)

Operators and organisations may amplify the indications required by paragraphs 2 and 5

above provided that such amplification cannot be confused with indications that are protected in accordance with Regulations (EEC) No 2081/92 and (EEC) No 2082/92 and that the conditions of paragraphs 2 and 5 are met.

Justification:

The intention of this amendment is to enable operators to add, under the provisions of the compulsory system, indications of geographical origin which refer to particular parts of the Member State. These indications would have to be given as additions to 'Member State' and would apply to beef derived from animals born, raised and slaughtered in that part of the Member State.

Reference to region, locality and/or regional breed could also be included.

(Amendment 30)
Article 14

Deleted

1. By way of derogation from Article 13(2), the first three indents of Article 13(5) and Article 13(6), an operator or organisation producing minced beef, beef trimmings or cut beef shall at least indicate on the label the Member States, regions or de-boning halls, or third countries, where production of the beef took place.

Where this beef is produced:

- in the same region or Member State, the indication may be given as either "Produced in: [name of region or Member State]", or "Produced in the EC",
- in more than one Member State, the indication may be given as either "Produced in: [names of Member States]" or "Produced in the EC",
- in one or more Member State and one or more third country, the indication may be given as either "Produced in: [names of Member States and third countries]" or "Produced in EC and Non-EC countries",

- in one or more third country, the indication may be given as either "Produced in: [name of third country or countries]", or "Produced in Non-EC countries".

2. By way of derogation from the sixth indent of Article 13(2), an operator or organisation may label veal without indicating the minimum maturation of the meat.

Justification:

The derogations from the compulsory labelling system which this article provides for with regard to minced beef, beef trimmings or cut beef are not warranted in view of the public health objectives pursued.

If an exception were made for minced and cut beef, between 30% and 50% of all beef, depending on the particular country, would be exempted de facto from the labelling requirement.

(Amendment 31)
Article 16

An operator or organisation that ensures a link between the identification of the beef and the individual animal from which the beef was derived, shall be entitled to label beef with a specific logo.

Deleted

Justification:

The provisions of the this Regulation concerning the traceability of beef must be adhered to by all operators and organisations. Moreover, a proliferation of the logos to be applied to labels ought to be avoided.

(Amendment 32)
Article 17(1), third subparagraph

Member States may decide that controls by an independent body can be replaced by controls by a competent authority. The competent authority shall in that case have at its disposal the qualified staff and

Member States may decide that controls by an independent body can be replaced by controls by a competent authority. The competent authority shall in that case have at its disposal the qualified staff and resources necessary to carry out the

resources necessary to carry out the requisite controls.

requisite controls and submit its work plan and an activity report to the Commission.

Justification:

In the interests of consumer protection, the provisions governing the voluntary beef labelling system should be strengthened as regards the formalities to be completed by operators or organisations wishing to apply the system.

(Amendment 33)

Article 17(1), fourth subparagraph

The costs of controls provided for under this Title shall be borne by the operator or organisation using the labelling system.

The costs of controls provided for under this Section shall be borne by the operator or organisation using the labelling system.

Justification:

This is a drafting amendment.

(Amendment 34)

Article 17(5)

5. Where the production and/or sale of beef takes place in two or more Member States, the competent authorities of the Member States shall:

deleted

- assist one another mutually to ensure effective interchange of information on the labelling specifications operating in any other Member State;
- recognise the specifications operating in any other Member State.

Justification:

In the interests of consumer protection, the provisions governing the voluntary beef labelling system should be strengthened as regards the formalities to be completed by operators or organisations wishing to apply the system.

(Amendment 35)

Article 18(2), first subparagraph, third indent

Does not affect the English version

Justification:

In the interests of consumer protection, the provisions governing the voluntary beef labelling system should be strengthened as regards the formalities to be completed by operators or organisations wishing to apply the system.

It applies by analogy to the voluntary labelling system for beef from third countries.

(Amendment 36)
Article 20(1), second indent

- definition of the categories of animals, referred to in the fourth indent of Article 13(2), Deleted

Justification:

The purpose of this amendment is to streamline labelling.

(Amendment 37)
Article 20(1), fourth indent

- definition of the logo, referred to in Article 16, Deleted

Justification:

Consistency (deletion of Article 16)

(Amendment 38)
Article 20(2)(b)

- (b) measures required to resolve specific practical problems. Such measures, if duly justified, may derogate from certain parts of this Title. Deleted

Justification:

This provision is not precise enough and leaves the Commission with an unlimited power of discretion. Moreover, the measures in question may be covered by the provisions of Article 20(2)(a).

(Amendment 39)
Article 21

Member States shall designate the competent authority or authorities responsible for implementing this Title, no later than six months after the entry into force of this Regulation.

Member States shall designate the competent authority or authorities responsible for implementing this Title, no later than two months after the entry into force of this Regulation.

Justification:

The time limit for the designation of competent authorities by the Member States is too long, given the need to ensure that the labelling system is introduced as soon as possible.

(Amendment 40)
Article 21a (new)

Article 21a

Within a period of one year from the date of entry into force of this Regulation, the European Parliament and the Council shall decide, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 152 of the Treaty, to extend the scope of this Regulation to include processed products containing beef and beef-based products.

Justification:

There are currently no Community rules governing the above-mentioned products.

(Amendment 41)
Article 22(1), second subparagraph

Any sanctions imposed by the Member State shall be proportionate to the gravity of the breach. The sanctions may involve, where justified, a restriction on movement of animals to or from the holding of the keeper concerned.

Any sanctions imposed by the Member State on a keeper shall be proportionate to the gravity of the breach. The sanctions may involve, where justified, a restriction on movement of animals to or from the holding of the keeper concerned and total or partial exclusion, as appropriate, from Community aid schemes.

Justification:

Recent food safety crises may warrant the use of more stringent sanctions.

(Amendment 42)

Article 22(2)

Whenever uniform application of the requirements of this Regulation renders it necessary, veterinary experts from the Commission may, in conjunction with the competent authorities:

- a) verify that the Member States are complying with the said requirements;
- b) make on-the spot checks to ensure that the checks are carried out in accordance with this Regulation.

Veterinary experts from the Commission shall, in conjunction with the competent authorities:

- a) verify that the Member States are complying with the said requirements;
- b) make on-the spot checks to ensure that the checks are carried out in accordance with this Regulation.

Justification:

To ensure compliance with the Regulation.

(Amendment 43) Article 22(3) second subparagraph

The outcome of the checks made must be discussed with the competent authority of the Member State concerned before a final report is drawn up and circulated.

The outcome of the checks made must be discussed with the competent authority of the Member State concerned before a final report is drawn up and circulated. The Commission must submit a report to the European Parliament listing the Member States' compliance status, every six months, commencing six months from the entry into force of the regulation. Beef which does not comply with this regulation should be labelled "This beef does not comply with EU traceability regulations".

Justification:

To ensure that the Parliament is made aware of the compliance status of Member States and to advise the public when beef does not conform with the Regulation.

(Amendment 44) Article 24

This Regulation shall enter into force on the seventh day following its publication in the *Official Journal of the European*

This Regulation shall enter into force on the seventh day following its publication in the *Official Journal of the European*

Communities.

It shall be applicable from [one month after the day of its entry into force].

Communities.

It shall be applicable from 1 September 2000.

Justification:

The voluntary labelling system laid down in Regulation (EC) No 2772/1999 expires on 31 August 2000. In order to avoid a legal vacuum, this proposal for a regulation should therefore be adopted by Parliament and the Council before 31 August 2000, so that the compulsory labelling system may be applied as from 1 September 2000.

DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

European Parliament legislative resolution on the proposal for a European Parliament and Council regulation establishing a system for the identification and registration of bovine animals and regarding the labelling of beef and beef products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 820/97 (COM(1999) 487 – C5-0240 – 1999/0204(COD))

(Codecision procedure: first reading)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the European Parliament and the Council (COM(1999) 487¹),
 - having regard to Articles 251(2) and 152 of the EC Treaty, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C5-0240/1999),
 - having regard to Rule 67 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy and the opinion of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (A5-0088/2000),
1. Approves the Commission proposal as amended;
 2. Asks to be consulted again should the Commission intend to amend its proposal substantially or replace it with another text;
 3. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council and Commission.

¹ OJ C 376, 28.12.1999, p. 42.

23 March 2000

**OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL
DEVELOPMENT***

for the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy

on the proposal for a European Parliament and Council Regulation establishing
a system for the identification and registration of bovine animals and regarding
the labelling of beef and beef products and repealing Council Regulation (EC)
No 820/97
(COM(1999) 487 – C5-0240/1999 – 1999/0204(COD))

Draftsman: Heinz Kindermann

PROCEDURE

The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development appointed Heinz Kindermann draftsman at its meeting of 19 October 1999.

It considered the draft opinion at its meetings of 29 November 1999, 25 January , 24 February and 21 March 2000.

At the last meeting it adopted the amendments unanimously.

The following were present for the vote: acting chairman Joseph Daul; Vincenzo Lavarra, vice-chairman; Heinz Kindermann, draftsman; Gordon Adam, Danielle Auroi, Maria del Pilar Ayuso González, (for Neil Parish,), Niels Busk, Michel J.M. Dary, Ilda Figueiredo (for Dimitrios Koulourianos), Francesco Fiori, Georges Garot, Lutz Goepel, María Izquierdo Rojo, Elisabeth Jeggle, Salvador Jové Peres, Hedwig Keppelhoff-Wiechert, Christa Klab (for Michl Ebner), Jean-Claude Martinez, Xaver Mayer, Mikko Pesälä, Christa Prets (for António Campos), Giovanni Procacci, Fernando Reis, (for Arlindo Cunha), pursuant to Rule 153 (2)), María Rodríguez Ramos, Agnes Schierhuber, Struan Stevenson, Robert William Sturdy and Eurig Wyn (for Giorgio Celli).

CONCLUSIONS

The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development calls on the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following amendments in its report:

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendments by Parliament

(Amendment 1)

Recital 1

(1) Article 19 of Council Regulation (EC) No 820/97 establishing a system for the identification and registration of bovine animals and regarding the labelling of beef and beef products, lays down that a compulsory beef labelling system shall be introduced, which shall be obligatory in all Member States, from 1 January 2001 onwards. On the basis of a Commission proposal, the same Article also states that the general rules for that compulsory system shall be decided before that date.

(1) Article 19 of Council Regulation (EC) No 820/97 establishing a system for the identification and registration of bovine animals and regarding the labelling of beef and beef products, lays down that a compulsory beef labelling system shall be introduced, which shall be obligatory in all Member States, from 1 September 2000 onwards. On the basis of a Commission proposal, the same Article also states that the general rules for that compulsory system shall be decided before that date.

Justification

Date brought into line with the European Parliament's decision of 16 December 1999.

(Amendment 2)

Recital 5

(5) By means of the guarantees provided for such an improvement, certain public interest requirements will also be attained, in particular the protection of human and animal health. Therefore, the appropriate legal basis for this Regulation is Article 152 of the Treaty.

(5) By means of the guarantees provided for such an improvement, certain public interest requirements will be attained, in particular the protection of human and animal health. Therefore, the appropriate legal basis for this Regulation is Article 152 of the Treaty.

Justification:

The attainment of the specified public interest requirements, in particular the protection of human and animal health, is not an incidental consequence of this Regulation but in fact

constitutes the reason for this proposal.

(Amendment 3)
Recital 13a (new)

(13a) Member States are called upon to ensure that their computerised databases are fully operational as soon as possible, in accordance with Regulation 820/97.

Justification:

Pursuant to Regulation 820/97, computerised databases had to be fully operational by 31 December 1999 at the latest. This is not the case in some Member States, however. Properly functioning databases in all Member States are essential for ensuring that no problems occur with regard to traceability.

(Amendment 4)
Recital 19a (new)

(19a) Specific rules must be laid down in respect of animals driven to mountain pasture during the summer months.

Justification:

Every spring some 300 000 head of cattle in Austria alone and 54 000 in Bavaria alone are driven to mountain pasture and remain there for about three months. Animals from different holdings are looked after together. The existing livestock supply lists already make it possible to identify the holding to which an individual animal belongs. Additional registration for the purposes of driving cattle to and down from mountain pasture would entail unnecessary red tape. Traceability must continue to be guaranteed at all times, but the rules have to be sensible and practical.

(Amendment 5)
Recital 24

(24) The compulsory beef labelling system shall be reinforced from 1 January 2003. Under this compulsory system, operators and organisations marketing beef shall, in addition, indicate on the label information

(24) The compulsory beef labelling system shall be reinforced from 1 January 2002 at the latest. From that date, operators and organisations marketing beef shall, in addition, indicate on the label information

concerning origin, in particular where the animal or animals from which the beef was derived were born, reared and slaughtered.

concerning origin, in particular where the animal or animals from which the beef was derived were born and reared.

Justification:

The words 'at the latest' need to be inserted in order to make it clear that the new date is a deadline. The beginning of the next sentence has also been amended for reasons of clarity. Indication of the place of slaughter became compulsory on 1 September 2000, and it is therefore no longer necessary to mention it here.

(Amendment 6)
Recital 25

(25) The date of 1 January 2003 is the earliest date by which it is feasible to introduce the compulsory labelling of origin. The principal reason for not introducing compulsory labelling of origin before 1 January 2003 is that full information on movements made by bovine animals in the Community is only required for animals born after 1 January 1998.

(25) The compulsory labelling of origin must be introduced by 1 January 2002 at the latest, even though full information on movements made by bovine animals in the Community is only required for animals born after 1 January 1998.

Justification:

The new wording ensures that the compulsory labelling of origin will actually take effect from 1 January 2002, even if, at that time, a significant number of bovine animals for which full labelling of origin is not possible, because they were born after 1 January 1998, are still on the market.

(Amendment 7)
Recital 26

(26) In terms of the public interest requirement, the compulsory beef labelling system shall also apply to beef imported into the Community. However, provision must be made for the fact that not all the information required for the indication of origin on the label may be available to a third country operator or organisation. It is therefore necessary to state the minimum

(26) In terms of the public interest requirement, the compulsory beef labelling system must also apply to beef imported into the Community. If not all the information laid down in this Regulation is available to a third-country operator or organisation, a clear indication to this effect must be provided.

information that shall be indicated on the label by third countries.

Justification:

Beef from third countries must in principle be subject to the same rules as beef from the EU. If not all the information required pursuant to Article 13 is obtainable, a clear indication to this effect must be provided. See also Amendment 26.

(Amendment 8)
Recital 26a (new)

(26a) To inform consumers, taking into account their eating habits and traditional ways of cooking, Member States may make certain indications compulsory, for example indication of category or other information.

Justification:

To allow for specific eating habits in the individual Member States and enable all consumers to choose according to their preferences in the light of the indications supplied, it is proposed that Article 13(3) be reworded so that Member States may inform consumers about the category and breed of bovine animals.

(Amendment 9)
Recital 27

(27) For operators or organisations producing and marketing minced beef, beef trimmings or cut beef and operators or organisations exporting beef from third countries to the Community, who may not be in a position to provide all the information required under the compulsory beef labelling system, exceptions ensuring a certain minimum number of indications must be provided.

Deleted

Justification:

As Amendment 24 reduces the number of derogations to a minimum, it is not necessary to refer to them separately in the recitals.

(Amendment 10)

Article 4(1)

1. All animals on a holding born after 1 January 1998 or intended for intra-Community trade after 1 January 1998 shall be identified by an eartag approved by the competent authority, applied to each ear. Both eartags shall bear the same unique identification code, which makes it possible to identify each animal individually together with the holding on which it was born. By way of derogation from the above requirement, animals born before 1 January 1998 which are intended for intra-Community trade after that date may be identified in accordance with Directive 92/102/EEC until 1 September 1998. By way of further derogation from the above requirement, animals born before 1 January 1998 which are intended for intra-Community trade after that date with a view to immediate slaughter may be identified in accordance with Directive 92/102/EEC until 1 September 1999. Bovine animals intended for cultural and sporting events (with the exception of fairs and exhibitions) may, instead of by an eartag, be identified by an identification system offering equivalent guarantees that has been recognised by the Commission.

1. All animals on a holding shall be identified by an eartag approved by the competent authority, applied to each ear. Both eartags shall bear the same unique identification code, which makes it possible to identify each animal individually together with the holding on which it was born. Bovine animals intended for cultural and sporting events (with the exception of fairs and exhibitions) may, instead of by an eartag, be identified by an identification system offering equivalent guarantees that has been recognised by the Commission.

Justification:

This amendment has been tabled to delete the cut-off dates for derogations, which have already expired.

(Amendment 11)

Article 4(2)

2. The eartag shall be applied within a period to be determined by the Member State as from the birth of the animal and in any case before the animal leaves the holding on which it was born. That period may not be longer than 30 days up to and including 31 December 1999, and not longer than 20 days thereafter.

2. The eartag shall be applied within a period to be determined by the Member State as from the birth of the animal and in any case before the animal leaves the holding on which it was born. That period may not be longer than 30 days.

However, at the request of a Member State and in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 10, the Commission may determine the circumstances in which Member States may extend the maximum period.

No animal born after 1 January 1998 may be moved from a holding unless it is identified in accordance with this Article.

However, at the request of a Member State and in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 10, the Commission may determine the circumstances in which Member States may extend the maximum period.

No animal may be moved from a holding unless it is identified in accordance with this Article.

Justification:

This amendment has been tabled in order both to delete the references to permissible exceptions, which are already out of date, and to allow Member States to employ a monthly operating routine when applying eartags, thus enabling them to save costs.

(Amendment 12)

Article 6(3), first indent

– which have a computerised database which the Commission deems to be fully operational before 1 January 2000 in accordance with Article 5 may determine that a passport is to be issued only for animals intended for intra-Community trade and that those animals shall be accompanied by their passports only when they are moved from the territory of the Member State concerned to the territory of another Member State, in which case the passport shall contain information based on the computerised database.

– which have a computerised database which the Commission deems to be fully operational in accordance with Article 5 may determine that a passport is to be issued only for animals intended for intra-Community trade and that those animals shall be accompanied by their passports only when they are moved from the territory of the Member State concerned to the territory of another Member State, in which case the passport shall contain information based on the computerised database.

Justification:

This amendment has been tabled to delete the cut-off dates for derogations, which have already expired.

(Amendment 13)

Article 7(1), second indent

1. With the exception of transporters, each keeper of animals shall:

- keep an up-to-date register,
- once the computerised database is fully operational, report to the competent

1. With the exception of transporters, each keeper of animals shall:

- keep an up-to-date register,
- once the computerised database is fully operational, report to the competent

authority all movements to and from the holding and all births and deaths of animals on the holding, along with the dates of these events, within 15 days and, as from 1 January 2000, within seven days of the event occurring. However, at the request of a Member State and in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 10, the Commission may determine the circumstances in which Member States may extend the maximum period.

authority all movements to and from the holding and all births and deaths of animals on the holding, along with the dates of these events, within seven days of the event occurring. However, at the request of a Member State and in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 10, the Commission may determine the circumstances in which Member States may extend the maximum period and shall lay down specific rules for the purposes of driving animals to mountain pasture and their grazing in Alpine meadows during the summer months

Justification:

This amendment has been tabled to delete the cut-off dates for derogations, which have already expired.

Every spring some 300 000 head of cattle in Austria alone and 54 000 in Bavaria alone are driven to mountain pasture and remain there for about three months. Animals from different holdings are looked after together. The existing livestock supply lists already make it possible to identify the holding to which an individual animal belongs. Additional registration for the purposes of driving cattle to and down from mountain pasture would entail unnecessary red tape. Traceability must continue to be guaranteed at all times, but the rules have to be sensible and practical.

(Amendment 14)

Article 9

Member States may charge to keepers as referred to in Article 2 the costs of the systems referred to in Article 3 and of the controls referred to in this Title.

Member States may charge to keepers the costs referred to in Article 3(a) and (d).

In that event the suppliers of the necessary goods and services shall be freely selected by the keepers, who shall bear sole responsibility for ensuring that the goods and services conform to this Regulation.

The aforementioned goods and services must in any event be produced in accordance with the technical standards laid down by the proper authorities.

Justification:

This amendment has been tabled because:

- *The costs incidental to the systems referred to in Article 3 which Member States may require keepers to pay should be specifically defined so as to prevent the different lines of conduct adopted by individual Member States from leading to manifestly unequal treatment of Community operators.*
- *The Community operators called upon to defray the above costs must be given complete freedom to act, albeit without infringing the technical standards laid down by the proper authorities, so as to ensure that they are not adversely affected by monopolies.*

(Amendment 15)
Article 10

Without prejudice to Article 8 of Council Decision 1999/486/EC, the Commission shall adopt detailed rules for the implementation of this Title in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 13 of Council Regulation (EC) 1258/99.

The Commission, assisted by the Standing Veterinary Committee set up under Article 5 of Decision 68/361/EEC acting in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 5 of Decision 1999/468/EC and without prejudice to the provisions of Article 8 thereof, shall adopt detailed rules for the implementation of this Title. The period referred to in Article 5(6) of Decision 1999/468/EC shall be three months.

Justification:

Under this amendment the Standing Veterinary Committee, and not the EAGGF Committee, would be made responsible for checking the identification of bovine animals.

(Amendment 16)
Article 11, first indent

– is required, by virtue of section I of this Title, to label beef at the point of sale and/or,

– is required, by virtue of section I of this Title, to label beef at all stages of marketing and/or,

Justification:

In the interests of ensuring traceability, beef must be labelled not only at the point of sale to the final consumer but at all stages of marketing, including, for instance, when its is delivered to processing establishments.

(Amendment 17)

Article 12, second indent

– 'labelling' shall mean the attachment of a label to an individual piece or pieces of meat or to their packaging material, including the supply of information to the consumer at the point of sale,

– 'labelling' shall mean the attachment of a label to an individual piece or pieces of meat or to their packaging material or, in the case of meat that is not pre-packaged, written information for the consumer at the point of sale,

Justification:

Provisions must be made for meat that is not pre-packaged when placed on the market and is sold loose. In such cases, it should be possible to replace the label with written information for the consumer at the point of sale, which, like the label, contains the details specified in this Regulation.

(Amendment 18)

Article 13(1), first subparagraph

1. Operators and organisations marketing beef in the Community shall label it in accordance with the provisions of this Article.

1. Operators and organisations marketing beef in the Community shall label it in accordance with the provisions of this Article as from the implementation date specified in this Regulation.

Justification:

As early as 1997, Regulation (EC) No 820/97 stipulated that the obligation in question would apply from 1 January 2000. The Commission is proposing to put that date back to 1 January 2003, contrary to its promises to European consumers. Labelling including compulsory indication of origin must be introduced immediately on entry into force of the Regulation. The Commission maintains, however, that some Member States are not yet in a position to specify the places of birth and rearing. Given that the system was laid down as long ago as 1997, these difficulties must not delay its implementation in the Community as a whole.

(Amendment 19)

Article 13(2), second to sixth indents

– the approval number of the slaughterhouse at which the animal or group of animals was slaughtered and the region or Member State or third country in which the slaughterhouse is established. The indication shall read: "Slaughtered in [name of the region or Member State or third country] [approval

– the approval number of the slaughterhouse at which the animal or group of animals was slaughtered and the Member State or third country in which the slaughterhouse is established. The indication shall read: "Slaughtered in [name of the Member State or third country] and [approval number]",

number]",

– the approval number of the de-boning hall at which the carcass or group of carcasses were de-boned and the region or Member State or third country in which the de-boning hall is established. The indication shall read: "De-boned in: [name of the region or Member State or third country] [approval number]",

– the category of animal or animals from which the beef was derived,

– date of slaughter of the animal or group of animals from which the beef was derived,

– ideal maturation period of the beef.

– the approval number of the de-boning hall at which the carcass or group of carcasses were de-boned and the Member State or third country in which the de-boning hall is established. The indication shall read: "De-boned in: [name of the Member State or third country] and [approval number]",

Deleted

Deleted

Deleted

Justification

As early as 1997, Regulation (EC) No 820/97 stipulated that the obligation in question would apply from 1 January 2000. The Commission is proposing to put that date back to 1 January 2003, contrary to its promises to European consumers. Labelling including compulsory indication of origin must be introduced immediately on entry into force of the Regulation. The Commission maintains, however, that some Member States are not yet in a position to specify the places of birth and rearing. Given that the system was laid down as long ago as 1997, these difficulties must not delay its implementation in the Community as a whole.

Once the Regulation has been adopted, the minimum requirement entailed under the mandatory rules governing labelling must be to indicate an animal's origin (place of birth, rearing, and slaughter). Exceptions, for which reasons would have to be provided, could nevertheless be made for individual Member States if their arrangements were such that they could not supply reliable indications of origin. Under no circumstances should those exceptions cause enforcement of the obligations to be delayed beyond 1 January 2003. They do not, in any event, constitute an obstacle to trade.

(Amendment 20)

Article 13(5), first subparagraph

As from 1 January 2003, operators and organisations shall indicate also on the labels:

- Member State, region or holding, or third country, of birth,

As from 1 January 2003 at the latest, operators and organisations shall indicate also on the labels:

- Name of Member State or third country of birth,

- all Member States, regions or holdings, or third countries, where fattening took place,

- Names of Member States or third countries where fattening took place,

- Member State, region or slaughterhouse, or third country, where slaughter took place,

Deleted

- Member State, region or de-boning hall, or third country, where de-boning took place.

Deleted

Justification:

Consumers are anxious for labelling of all meat marketed in the Community to be implemented as soon as possible. That is why it is proposed to bring forward the entry into force of the compulsory Community arrangements to 1 January 2002. Furthermore, consumers are calling for exact information about the places where animals were born, fattened, and slaughtered.

(Amendment 21)

Article 13(5), subparagraph 1a (new)

1a. Where animals were born before 1 January 1998 and their place of birth therefore cannot be established for the purposes of this Regulation, the following additional indication must appear on the label:

"*: Birth not registered (born before 1 January 1998)".

Justification:

In the foreseeable future there will still be animals not registered in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 820/97. The Commission believes that, on account of these animals, the introduction of comprehensive compulsory labelling will have to be put back from the date originally scheduled, 1 January 2000, to 1 January 2003. However, it would be entirely sufficient to lay down specific rules on this ever-dwindling beef cattle category in order to alert consumers to the fact that the animals in question are not fully traceable.

(Amendment 22)

Article 13(5), second subparagraph

However, where the beef is derived from animals born, raised, slaughtered and de-boned:

– in the same Member State, the indication

However, where the beef is derived from animals born, raised and slaughtered:

– in the same Member State, the indication

may be given as either "Origin: [name of Member State]" or "Origin: EC";

– in more than one Member State, the indication may be given as either "Origin: EC", or "Origin: more than one Member State of the EC";

– in one or more Member State and one or more third country, the indication may be given as "Origin: EC and Non-EC";

– in one or more third country, the indication may be given as either "Origin: [name of third country or countries]" or "Origin: Non-EC".

may be given as "Origin: [name of Member State]";

Deleted

Deleted

– in one or more third country, the indication may be given as either "Origin: name of third country or countries" or "Origin: Non-EC".

Justification:

Catch-all terms such as 'EC' are unacceptable because they do not convey sufficient information to consumers. Even when beef is obtained from animals born, kept, and slaughtered in several Member States, those Member States must be named. Consumers need to be reassured that operators are able to keep track of the origin of meat. A sweeping indication along the lines of 'Origin: EC' would not dispel their very intense anxiety. However, when the three stages of birth, rearing, and slaughter have taken place in the same country, there is no need to state the same name three times over.

(Amendment 23)

Article 14(1), first subparagraph

By way of derogation from Article 13(2), the first three indents of Article 13(5) and Article 13(6), an operator or organisation producing minced beef, beef trimmings or cut beef shall at least indicate on the label the Member States, regions or de-boning halls, or third countries, where production of the beef took place.

By way of derogation from Article 13(2), except for the first indent thereof, and from Article 13(5), an operator or organisation producing minced beef shall at least indicate on the label the Member States and/or third countries, and the de-boning halls, where production of the minced beef took place.

Justification:

Maximum traceability must also be ensured in the case of this derogation. For that reason, it is essential to cite not only the reference code but also to indicate the de-boning hall in addition, rather than as an alternative, to the indication of the country of production. The

Commission proposal does not contain an Article 13(6), and the text has been amended to reflect this. No derogation is to be provided for beef trimmings or cut beef.

(Amendment 24)
Article 14(1), second subparagraph

Where this beef is produced:

- in the same region or Member State, the indication may be given as either "Produced in: [name of region or Member State]", or "Produced in the EC",
- in more than one Member State, the indication may be given as either "Produced in: [names of Member States]" or "Produced in the EC",
- in one or more Member State and one or more third country, the indication may be given as either "Produced in: [names of Member States and third countries]" or "Produced in EC and Non-EC countries",
- in one or more third country, the indication may be given as either "Produced in: [name of third country or countries]" or "Produced in Non-EC countries".

Where this minced beef is produced:

- in the same Member State, the indication shall be given as "Produced in: [name of Member State]",
- in more than one Member State, the indication shall be given as "Produced in: [names of Member States]",
- in one or more Member State and one or more third country, the indication shall be given as "Produced in: [names of Member States and third countries]",
- in one or more third country, the indication shall be given as "Produced in: [name of third country or countries]".

Justification:

In order to ensure maximum transparency for consumers, the Member States and/or third countries from which the beef originates ought to be specified in all the above cases, insofar as the third countries concerned have reliable tracing systems which guarantee the accuracy of the information. General indications of origin such as 'Origin: EC' or 'Origin: Non-EC' do not foster consumer confidence and are therefore insufficient in these cases.

(Amendment 25)
Article 14(2)

By way of derogation from the sixth indent of Article 13(2), an operator or organisation may label veal without indicating the minimum maturation of the meat.

Deleted

Justification

Since Amendment 19 removes any obligation to indicate the minimum maturation period, this paragraph should be deleted, as a derogation for veal is no longer needed.

(Amendment 26)

Article 15

By way of derogation from Article 13, beef imported into the Community, for which all the information provided for in Article 13 is not available, shall be labelled with the indication:

"Origin: Non-EC", or "Slaughtered in: [name of third country]".

By way of derogation from Article 13, beef imported into the Community, for which all the information provided for in Article 13 is not available, and/or which originates in third countries where there is no reliable tracing system, so that the accuracy of the information cannot be guaranteed, shall be labelled with the indication:

"Origin: Non-EC",

By way of derogation from Article 14, minced beef produced in third countries where there is no reliable tracing system, so that the accuracy of the information cannot be guaranteed, shall be labelled with the indication:

'Produced in non-EC countries'.

Justification:

If not all the information required pursuant to Article 13 is available, or if such information cannot be verified conclusively by means of reliable tracing systems in third countries, a general indication of origin ('Origin: Non-EC') is to be used. The same applies to minced beef. This will guarantee that consumers have reliable information on the origin of meat they have bought.

(Amendment 27)

Article 17(1), last subparagraph

The costs of controls provided for under this Title shall be borne by the operator or organisation using the labelling system.

Deleted

Justification

This amendment is designed to ensure that public contributions may be provided to pay part of the expenses incurred in checks on the voluntary labelling system when production takes place in special circumstances.

(Amendment 28)
Article 17(5a) (new)

5a. The name of a region may be used only in the manner laid down in Regulation (EEC) No 2081/92 on Community designations of origin.

Justification

This provision is intended to ensure that the name of a region can be accepted as an optional indication if it is used in accordance with Regulation (EEC) No 2081/92 on Community designations of origin.

(Amendment 29)
Article 18(1)

Does not affect the English version

(Amendment 30)
Article 20(2)(b)

(b) measures required to resolve specific practical problems. Such measures, if duly justified, may derogate from certain parts of this Title.

(b) measures required to resolve specific practical problems. Such measures may not, however, even if they are duly justified, derogate from this Title.

Justification

Even where practical problems have to be resolved, compliance with all parts of this Regulation must be ensured.