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*****II**

RECOMMENDATION FOR SECOND READING

on the Council common position for adopting 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 (8251/1/00 – C5-0270/2000 – 1999/0204(COD))

Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy

Rapporteur: Mihail Papayannakis

Symbols for procedures

- * Consultation procedure
majority of the votes cast
- **I Cooperation procedure (first reading)
majority of the votes cast
- **II Cooperation procedure (second reading)
*majority of the votes cast, to approve the common position
majority of Parliament's component Members, to reject or
amend the common position*
- *** Assent procedure
*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 Codecision procedure (first reading)
majority of the votes cast
- ***II Codecision procedure (second reading)
*majority of the votes cast, to approve the common position
majority of Parliament's component Members, to reject or
amend the common position*
- ***III Codecision procedure (third reading)
majority of the votes cast, to approve the joint text

(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the Commission)

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PROCEDURAL PAGE

At the sitting of 12 April 2000 Parliament adopted its position at first reading 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 - 1999/0204 (COD)).

At the sitting of 15 June 2000 the President of Parliament announced that the common position had been received and referred to the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy (8251/1/00 - C5-0270/2000).

The committee had appointed Mihail Papayannakis rapporteur at its meeting of 24 November 1999.

It considered the common position and the draft recommendation for second reading at its meetings of 20 June and 3 July 2000.

At the latter meeting it adopted the common position by 48 votes to 2 and the draft legislative resolution by 48 votes to 1, with 1 abstention.

The following were present for the vote: Caroline Jackson, chairman; Alexander de Roo and Ria G.H.C. Oomen-Ruijten, vice-chairmen; Mihail Papayannakis, rapporteur; Per-Arne Arvidsson, Elspeth Attwooll (for Frédérique Ries), Hans Blokland, David Robert Bowe, John Bowis, Philip Rodway Bushill-Matthews (for Maria del Pilar Ayuso González), Dorette Corbey, Chris Davies, Niranjana Deva (for Marielle de Sarnez), Avril Doyle, Carlo Fatuzzo (for Karl-Heinz Florenz), Marialiese Flemming, Laura González Álvarez, Robert Goodwill, Roger Helmer, Anneli Hulthén, Marie Anne Isler Béguin, Hedwig Keppelhoff-Wiechert (for Cristina García-Orcyoyen Tormo), Christa Kläß, Eija-Riitta Anneli Korhola, Bernd Lange, Peter Liese, Jules Maaten, Patricia McKenna, Minerva Melpomeni Malliori, Erik Meijer (for Roseline Vachetta), Bill Miller (for Béatrice Patrie, pursuant to Rule 153(2)), Emilia Franziska Müller, Rosemarie Müller, Riitta Myller, Karl Erik Olsson, Marit Paulsen, Dagmar Roth-Behrendt, Guido Sacconi, Karin Scheele, Horst Schnellhardt, Inger Schörling, Jonas Sjöstedt, Bart Staes (for Hiltrud Breyer), Struan Stevenson (for Jorge Moreira Da Silva, pursuant to Rule 153(2)), Catherine Stihler, Robert William Sturdy (for Françoise D. Grossetête), Charles Tannock (for Cristina Gutiérrez Cortines), Nicole Thomas-Mauro, Antonios Trakatellis, Kathleen Van Brempt (for Torben Lund), Christine de Veyrac (for Giuseppe Nisticò) and Phillip Whitehead.

The recommendation for second reading was tabled on 3 July 2000.

The deadline for tabling amendments to the common position is 4 p.m. on 4 July 2000.

DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

European Parliament legislative resolution on the Council common position for adopting 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 (8251/1/00 – C5-0270/2000 – 1999/0204(COD))

(Codecision procedure: second reading)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Council common position (8251/1/00 – C5-0270/2000),
 - having regard to its position at first reading¹ on the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council (COM(1999) 487²),
 - having regard to the Commission's amended proposal (COM(2000) 301³),
 - having regard to Article 251(2) of the EC Treaty,
 - having regard to Rule 80 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the recommendation for second reading of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy (A5-0193/2000),
1. Amends the common position as follows;
 2. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council and Commission.

¹ OJ C Not yet published in the OJ.

² OJ C 376, 28.12.1999, p. 42.

³ OJ C Not yet published in the OJ.

(Amendment 1)
Recital 24

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

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Justification

Refers to listing of category - see amendment to article 14.

(Amendment 2)
Recital 25a (new)

Information additional to the information concerning where the animal or animals from which the beef was derived were born, fattened and slaughtered may be provided under the voluntary beef labelling system

Justification:

Self-explanatory.

(Amendment 3)
Article 13(2)(d)

(d) the category of animals or animals from which the beef was derived. **delete**

Justification

This information is confusing and unnecessary for consumers and would impose additional costs on farmers, industry and consumer.

(Amendment 4)
Article 14, first paragraph

By way of derogation from Article 13 (2) (b) and (c) and (d) and from Article 13 (5) (a) (I) and (ii), an operator or organisation preparing minced beef shall indicate on the label the words 'prepared (name of the Member State or third country)', depending on where the meat was prepared.

By way of derogation from Article 13 (2) (b) and (c) and (d) and from Article 13 (5) (a) (I) and (ii), an operator or organisation preparing minced beef shall indicate on the label the words 'prepared (name of the Member State or third country)', depending on where the meat was prepared ***and 'origin' where the state or states involved are not the state of preparation.***

Justification

The consumer needs to be aware of in which country or countries the mince originated if different to that of where it was prepared. Otherwise, this is misleading to the consumer.

(Amendment 5)
Article 19(d)

*Definition of the categories of
animals referred to in Article 13(2)(d);* *delete*

Justification

Definition of the categories of animals should be made clear within the Common Position, so that Parliament knows what it is voting for.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

On 6 June 2000, the Council unanimously adopted its common position for adopting 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.

The majority of the amendments made by the Council to the Commission proposal are based on Parliament's first-reading amendments, which formed a sound basis for this codecision procedure. More important still, the sought-after consensus has been achieved on the key aspects of the future Regulation, notably the dates for implementation and entry into force of the compulsory and voluntary labelling systems, the information that must appear on the labels affixed to beef at all stages of marketing and the control measures needed to ensure compliance with the regulation.

The regulation's objectives relating to public health, where there is to be a system making it possible to trace beef back to the animal from which it was derived, be it of Community origin or not, and to consumer information, which is meant to be clear and concise, may always be reviewed. This regulation concerns the entire beef sector: producers, operators, beef marketing organisations and the processing industry. The Member States (and their databases) have a fundamental role to play in the identification and control system. Consumers and their associations are also to ensure that the rules are properly applied.

In December 1999, the European Union gave consumers a clear undertaking that it would implement this legislation on 1 September 2000, and, in recommending approval of this common position, your rapporteur wishes to see that commitment fulfilled.