

AMENDMENT 18

by Bart Staes, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Report**Hedwig Keppelhoff-Wiechert**

Feed hygiene

A5-0133/2004

Proposal for a regulation (COM(2003) 180 - C5-0175/2003 - 2003/0071(COD))

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment by Parliament

Amendment 18

Recital 24

(24) Successive feed crises have shown that failures at any stage in the feed chain can have important economic consequences. Feed production and its complex distribution chain does not make the withdrawal of feed from the market an easy task. The costs of rectifying the economic damages along the feed and food chain is often borne by public funds. The remedying of this economic consequence at a low cost to society could be improved if the operator, whose activity causes economic damage in the feed sector, is held financially responsible. ***This gives operators an incentive to meet high standards, which might not be met without such a system of financial liability. Operators should provide an appropriate financial guarantee, such as an insurance, in order to cover costs of the withdrawal of products from the market, treatment and/or destruction of feed and food produced therefrom. This can induce operators to adopt measures and develop practices to minimise the risks related to their activities.***

(24) Successive feed crises have shown that failures at any stage in the feed chain can have important economic consequences. Feed production and its complex distribution chain does not make the withdrawal of feed from the market an easy task. The costs of rectifying the economic damages along the feed and food chain is often borne by public funds. The remedying of this economic consequence at a low cost to society could be improved if the operator, whose activity causes economic damage in the feed sector, is held financially responsible. ***However, establishing a general mandatory system of financial liability and financial guarantees, for example through insurance, which applies to all feed business operators, may not be feasible or appropriate. The Commission should therefore consider this issue in greater depth, taking into account provisions in existing legislation with regard to liability in other spheres, as well as existing systems and practices amongst the Member States. To this end, the Commission should present a report, accompanied, where appropriate, by legislative proposals. In the event of positive recommendations for financial guarantees, this system might, in the medium term, be extended so as to provide comprehensive and uniform financial cover for any***

instances of loss.

Or. en

Justification

This addition to Recital 24 of the Council document, which was included in Council document from 17 March, would be in line with EP Amendment 5 on Article 8 Paragraph 2, which was not accepted by the Council.

It is important to extend the scope of the reflection on financial guarantees: if setting up such a system in the future, all aspects of liability should be covered, not only the costs for withdrawing feedingstuffs from the market.