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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Commission statement

pursuant to Rule 37(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by Karl Erik Olsson, Niels Busk, Jan Mulder, Marit Paulsen and Elizabeth Lynne

on behalf of the ELDR Group

on BSE and ban on animal meal in all feedingstuffs

European Parliament resolution on BSE and ban on animal meal in all feedingstuffs

The European Parliament,

- A. whereas a six month experimental testing programme begun in June 2000 has uncovered up to 35 cases of BSE infection in animals that would not have been identified under normal veterinary inspections,
- B. whereas there is every reason to believe that meat from an infected herd made its way into the normal food chain in France in spite of a policy of slaughtering the entire herd whenever BSE infection is discovered,
- C. whereas these developments, together with two cases to date of CJD in France, have led to considerable public alarm and anxiety,
- D. whereas public confidence in food safety and processing mechanisms in the EU has once again been dealt a severe blow,
- E. whereas incidents such as these point to the need for the rigorous application of strict hygiene and veterinary standards throughout the food chain particularly as regards the additives and ingredients used in animal feed,
 - 1. Regrets the fact that this recent scandal has once again fuelled public concern over food safety in the EU;
 - 2. Is gravely concerned by the latest BSE scare and in particular by the fact that many more cases of BSE infected cattle are expected to emerge in France in the near future;
 - 3. Believes that while there is indeed some cause for public concern, the safety of beef in the EU can be ensured by the proper implementation of the safety measures adopted by the EU following the emergence of BSE in the UK in the 1990's;
 - 4. Takes the view that it should be considered a crime to knowingly allow an infected animal, or one suspected thereof, to enter the food chain;
 - 5. Notes that farmers are likely to be the first to notice possible cases of infection in their herd; believes in this respect that national eradication policies should be such that they encourage all of those involved in the earlier stages of the food chain to come forward if they suspect BSE;
 - 6. Believes that confidence in EU food safety standards will only be improved if there is a much wider debate on ingredients currently used in food production/processing, more transparent public information as regards actual or potential risks to health and, finally, greater attention is paid to the quality of food sold to consumers rather than giving carte blanche to mass production methods;

7. Takes the view that traceability of food all the way from feed and field to stable and table should be a cornerstone of EU food policy;
8. Is firmly of the opinion that public confidence in food safety in the EU would be particularly enhanced through more pro-active use of the precautionary principle rather than the current tendency towards damage limitation measures;
9. Welcomes the recent Commission proposal to create a food safety authority and hopes that it will be given the necessary financing and personnel to enable it to effectively police the food chain and production methods in the EU;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the parliaments of the Member States.