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## MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Commission statement

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

by Sylviane H. Ainardi, Mihail Papayannakis, Laura González Álvarez, Jonas Sjöstedt, Salvador Jové, Ilda Figueiredo, Armando Cossutta and Christel Fiebiger

on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

on BSE and the banning of meat and bone meal in the feeding of all livestock

**European Parliament resolution on BSE and the banning of meat and bone meal in the feeding of all livestock**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its earlier resolutions on BSE and food safety,
- A. whereas new cases of BSE have been discovered in several European countries despite the ban on the use of meat and bone meal for ruminants, cattle, sheep and goats and despite the mass slaughter of herds in which one infected animal has been found,
- B. whereas the new cases of BSE are probably linked to the use of contaminated meat and bone meal sold illegally or intended for pigs or poultry,
- C. having regard to the growing concern that has arisen recently and in certain countries such as France with regard to the alleged scale of mad cow disease and the potential health risks for consumers,
- D. whereas this concern has immediately resulted in a slump in beef sales and a fall in prices that is damaging to farmers and all operators in the beef sector,
- E. whereas the 1993 GATT agreement prohibits the EU from producing more than 25% of its vegetable protein requirements in order to promote US exports,
- 1. Notes that because of negligence and the inadequate measures taken as part of the policy to tackle BSE, and bearing in mind the long incubation period, the BSE crisis has still not been brought under control since new cases are being discovered in some Member States;
- 2. Considers that consumer health is an absolute priority which must outweigh all other considerations; therefore considers it urgent to take further measures to combat BSE in order to reassure consumers and to restore their confidence in food safety;
- 3. Calls, in accordance with the precautionary principle, for a definitive ban on the use of meat and bone meal in the feeding of all livestock, including pigs, poultry and fish;
- 4. Proposes that biological testing be extended to all cattle entering the human food chain, as has been done in Switzerland with positive results in detecting infected animals;
- 5. Calls for further research to improve screening tests, in particular by introducing more sensitive tests which would make it possible to distinguish the normal prion protein from the infectious protein;
- 6. Wishes to see the speedy application of a Community plan for the transport, storage and incineration of meat and bone meal so that it can be disposed of without creating further risks to public health and the environment;

7. Calls for the tightening up of the mandatory labelling of beef and beef products that has been in force since 1 September 2000, with an indication of the type of animal - bull calf, bull, bullock or heifer;
8. Calls for the speedy establishment of the European Food Authority which should provide independent scientific opinions and enable the risks inherent in all operations relating to foodstuffs and animal feed to be assessed;
9. Invites the Commission to propose a review of the CAP mechanisms that led to over-intensive farming that is damaging to the environment and product quality, to encourage more extensive methods of production limiting purchases of inputs and to provide aid to producers ruined by the slump in sales and fall in prices, in particular through market support measures, allocation of a variable slaughter premium and a grass premium;
10. Calls for revision of the 1993 GATT agreement so that the EU can produce vegetable protein to meet its animal feed requirements, particularly so that it is not obliged to import protein-rich oil plants from non-member countries that are likely to contain GMOs;
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.