

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

3 April 2001

B5-0303/2001

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Commission statement

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

by Jean-Claude Martinez, Jean-Marie Le Pen, Charles de Gaulle, Bruno Gollnisch and Carl Lang

on behalf of the Technical Group of Independent Members – mixed group

on the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Europe

European Parliament resolution on the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Europe

- A. whereas the first case of foot-and-mouth disease appeared on 19 February 2001 at a pig farm in the English county of Northumberland,
 - B. whereas Italy was affected by foot-and-mouth disease in 1993 and Greece on two occasions, in 1996 and 2000, by viruses originating in Turkey and the Balkans,
 - C. whereas, so far, more than 780 cases of foot-and-mouth disease have been recorded in the United Kingdom, 11 in the Netherlands, two in France and two in Ireland, and whereas almost 500 000 animals have already been slaughtered in the United Kingdom,
 - D. whereas a European directive of 26 June 1990 prohibited vaccination against foot-and-mouth disease throughout the European Union,
 - E. whereas the British instigated the abolition of vaccination in Europe in 1990-1991, essentially for commercial reasons, to promote exports of their livestock to the profitable markets of North America and Asia,
 - F. whereas emergency vaccination targeted on the infected areas has been authorised by the Standing Veterinary Committee in the Netherlands, and in the United Kingdom on 180 000 dairy cows in the counties of Cumbria and Devon,
- 1. Condemns the establishment of the single market in 1993 which, by eliminating borders between Member States, has reduced health and epidemiological checks de facto and has facilitated the development of epizootic diseases, particularly BSE since 1996 and foot-and-mouth disease at the present time;
 - 2. Considers that the Muslim community in France promoted the development of the foot-and-mouth virus by fraudulently importing 20 000 cut-price British sheep for the festival of Aïd-el-Kebir;
 - 3. Condemns the lack of transparency and traceability of animal movements, particularly in the case of live animals imported from the UK; points out that imports of animal meal from that country had already turned out to be highly deficient and fraudulent;
 - 4. Urges the European Union to review its agricultural production methods to make more use of extensive farming, particularly by promoting the grass premium and plant proteins;
 - 5. Considers that overemphasis on productivity, the unregulated free trade advocated by the Commission in Brussels, and the race for profit underlie the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, as they did in the case of BSE;
 - 6. Calls for Community aid for the owners of animals slaughtered as a preventive measure, equal to that for animals contaminated by foot-and-mouth disease (60%);

7. Considers that the embargo on all meat and livestock is costing France more than FF 3 billion a month and that the embargo must be lifted this week, as undertaken by the Standing Veterinary Committee;
8. Considers that, following the BSE disaster, the foot-and-mouth epidemic is having a tragic impact on farmers, in human, economic, financial and environmental terms;
9. Calls for full compensation for farmers for their loss of income, in particular specialised farmers, from both national and Community authorities, and calls for national solidarity in this respect;
10. Considers that the - often unjustified - mass slaughter of animals is dictated by commercial logic and public anxiety (precautionary principle) rather than effectiveness and safety;
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and the Council.