

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

3 April 2001

B5-0306/2001

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Commission statement

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

by Salvador Jové Peres, Sylviane H. Ainaridi, Ilda Figueiredo and Ioannis Patakis

on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

on foot and mouth disease

European Parliament resolution on foot and mouth disease

The European Parliament,

- A. having regard to the spread of the foot and mouth epidemic in the United Kingdom, and the emergence of several cases in other Member States, in particular the Netherlands,
- B. whereas the disease arose in connection with illegal imports of foodstuffs and the recycling of restaurant waste in animal feed,
- C. whereas increased trade increases the risks of exposure to epidemics, and whereas veterinary controls at all ports and airports are insufficiently standardised and rigorous,
- D. whereas the common agricultural policy requires increased competitiveness based on animal feed, the transport and concentration of livestock, and larger-scale livestock rearing concentrated in a few regions, and whereas all these factors have serious health implications,
- E. whereas livestock farmers are bearing the brunt of the economic effects of the disease, and whereas the measures adopted to date are merely intended to protect trade,
- F. whereas farms have already been hit hard economically by the BSE crisis,
 - 1. Regrets the fact that the lack of market regulations governing the pigmeat sector and inadequate inspection allowed the disease to occur, and deplors the fact that detection and control of the epidemic have been slow and ineffective;
 - 2. Is concerned about the repeated food, health and veterinary crises, and the growing scale thereof, created by the implementation of deregulation in some Member States;
 - 3. Notes both the preventive measures adopted with regard to trade and restrictions on livestock movements, and the authorisation granted for emergency vaccination, and calls on the Commission to investigate the options that vaccination provides for curbing the disease;
 - 4. Is concerned that the economic impact of the disease is being borne exclusively by producers, who have already been hit hard by the BSE crisis, while the measures adopted are mainly intended to protect trade, and therefore calls, as an immediate step, for financial compensation for the affected producers, if necessary by means of a revision of the financial perspective;
 - 5. Advocates the creation of a new budget line, entitled 'Food, health and veterinary crises';
 - 6. Calls on the Commission to put forward proposals to standardise veterinary controls at ports and airports, and to strengthen them at those ports and airports with the heaviest throughput of imports;

7. Calls on the Commission to open negotiations with the European Union's trade partners to seek acceptance of the principle of regionalisation;
8. Is concerned about the lack of instruments under the common agricultural policy for limiting the impact of undesirable food, health or veterinary situations, and that of the crises to which such situations may give rise;
9. Calls on the Commission to present a report on the possibilities of introducing new instruments to support producers who satisfy certain technical production conditions;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments of the Member States.