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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to the Commission statement

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

by Paul Lannoye, Heidi Hautala, Nelly Maes, Friedrich-Wilhelm Graefe zu Baringdorf, Danielle Auroi, Eurig Wyn, Patricia McKenna, Nuala Ahern, Alexander de Roo and Bart Staes

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

on foot and mouth disease

European Parliament resolution on foot and mouth disease

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the report of the Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare adopted on 10 March 1999,
 - having regard to Council Directive 92/119/EC and Council Directive 85/511/EEC, as amended by Council Directive 90/423/EC,
 - having regard to the decisions adopted by the Commission following the outbreak of foot and mouth disease in the UK on 20 February 2001 (2001/145/EC, 2001/172/EC, 2001/190/EC, 2001/208/EC and 2001/223/EC),
- A. whereas insufficiently treated swill which was fed to pigs in the UK seems to be the reason for the new outbreak of foot and mouth disease,
- B. whereas the rapid spread of foot and mouth disease has had disastrous effects on rural economies, affecting farming, processing, trade and tourism and bringing small farmers in particular to the brink of ruin, and has had serious consequences for entire rural regions and the EU agricultural sector in general,
- C. whereas current culling measures in the United Kingdom have proved not to be effective, especially as the time lags between identification of a local outbreak, culling of infected animals and destruction of culled animals are unacceptably long, and as uncontrolled and inefficient burning of culled animals has further spread the infection,
- D. whereas the increasing global mobility of animals, feedstuffs, food and people makes it extremely difficult to avoid and efficiently control the transfer of diseases into, and their spread within, the EU,
- E. whereas the notion of EU-wide FMD-free status has proved not to be a viable strategy, and needs urgently to be revised and modified,
- F. whereas Article 14 of Directive 92/119/EC currently prohibits vaccination in the Member States, and any curative methods,
- G. whereas global trade liberalisation strategies have unnecessarily increased the exchange of potentially disease-carrying agents, as often the same products are imported and exported between EU Member States and third countries,
- H. whereas the EU is the biggest net importer of food and feed in the world, but in order to maintain full access to world markets with FMD-free status, is unnecessarily taking the risk of ruining its own farmers and related rural industries by culling and destroying millions of animals,

- I. whereas high specialisation in animal breeding and the concentration of specialised farm industries in certain regions has increased the intensity of transport, and the distances transported, between farms and centralised processing industries, thus increasing the risk of a disease spreading throughout the EU and to third countries,
- J. whereas the enlargement of the EU and an increasingly long border with third countries are increasing the risk and the variety of possible infections in the EU, which makes it less probable that the EU's FMD-free status can be effectively defended,
- K. whereas animal welfare is seriously compromised by the slaughter of healthy animals, including rare breeds and prized flocks, herds and litters,
- L. whereas the EU farming community and the general public, deeply shocked at the scale of the disease, is no longer willing to accept the mass slaughter of animals, which is the result of an erroneous policy,
1. Urges the Council to declare a moratorium on the vaccination ban and to allow Member States, if they wish, to carry out emergency vaccination programmes without the obligation to cull these animals and without returning to a general prophylactic vaccination in the EU;
 2. Calls upon the Commission to revise the EU strategy of defending by all means the FMD-free status, as the culling and destruction of infected animals are proving not to be effective;
 3. Calls upon the Commission and the Council to set strict limits and, where necessary, impose strict bans on the transport of live animals and animal products throughout the EU in order to prevent the further spread of the disease, and to devise a common strategy for an overall reduction in the transport of animals in the future (maximum of four hours total transport, only allowing restrictive and temporary solutions such as mobile slaughter facilities for remote regions);
 4. Calls upon the Commission and the Member States to revise provisions on animal breeding conditions and feed quality in the light of animal health and disease sensitivity, and to further develop curative methods for prophylactic animal health support;
 5. Urges the Commission to submit a proposal on the registration of the sources, uses and treatment of swill in order to prevent untreated or insufficiently sterilised swill from being used in animal feed;
 6. Asks the Commission to allow specific urgent measures in all Member States to protect rare breeds;
 7. Calls upon the Commission to carry out an in-depth investigation to establish whether the measures taken by the UK and other Member States to date to prevent the spread of the disease were appropriate and taken in due time;

8. Calls upon the Commission to guarantee clear marking of FMD-vaccinated animals and to allow the strictly controlled marketing and processing of such animals only in the EU's internal market;
9. Calls upon the Commission to initiate scientific research into specific resistance and immunisation in various animal breeds and races, as well as under various breeding conditions;
10. Calls upon the Commission to include in its assessment a cost-benefit analysis which takes account of the costs and benefits of various disease-control approaches for all rural stakeholders including farmers, those involved in tourism and sporting activities and others who live and work in the countryside;
11. Calls upon the Commission to propose to the Council and Parliament an immediate ad-hoc support programme for farmers and rural industries in the regions most affected by foot and mouth disease.
12. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.