

03/09/01

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Strasbourg, 3 september 2001

BS-548/01

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

with request for inclusion in the debate on topical and urgent subjects of major importance pursuant to Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure

by Mr R. van Dam on behalf of the EDD Group

on the Foot and Mouth Disease

The European Parliament,

Taking into account that so far attempts to eradicate Foot-and-Mouth Disease have not been successful in any part of the United Kingdom;

Noting that new cases of FMD are appearing in England and Wales and that weather conditions in autumn and winter are likely to increase the risks of contamination;

Concerned about the lack of movement control on FMD by the UK and other member states, especially those maintaining ferry and tunnel connections with the UK, posing high risks for new cross-frontier spreads of the FMD.

Recalling that Parliament already adopted a Resolution in April 2001, requesting the Commission and the Member States to adopt a strong policy to control FMD;

Noting that the public opinion might not approve a further massive destruction of contaminated, suspected animals and vaccinated animals;

ASKS ITS CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS TO ASK

1. ~~Requests~~ the Council and the Commission to give a Statement, in which following questions should be dealt with:

Why the outbreak of FMD has lasted so long in the UK, why it has not been controlled so far, and if the practice of ring vaccination has been contemplated and if so, why ring vaccination has not been executed;

What is the estimate of the Commission, how much time will it take for the UK's herd to be considered FMD free: (1) under the current conditions, (2) in the case the UK will start making use of ring vaccination with every new outbreak;

How many inspection missions have been made on behalf of the Commission and what are the results of these missions;

What are the direct costs to date to the European Commission of the FMD outbreak;

Are the co-financing rules clear and equal for all member states;

What are the estimates of the total costs of the FMD outbreaks for rural areas;

What new budget lines the Commission foresees to combat and prevent possible future outbreaks;

What proposals are being considered for introducing an insurance scheme in order to ease the burden on the Community budget in case of animal epidemics and if these proposals are being

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considered do they give farmers a say in the animal disease policy: will farmers be involved in the decision-making regarding the discontinuation or continuation of the non-vaccination policy;

What future actions and policy the Council and the Commission intend to take regarding the prevention and control of FMD especially regarding to outside border controls

What progress has been made in the development of new testing methods and marker vaccines, and has the Commission an intention to speed up the development of these products.

2. Instructs its President to forward this Resolution to the Council and the Commission.