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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

with request for inclusion in the debate on topical and urgent subjects of major importance

pursuant to Rule 50(1) 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 TDI Group

on foot-and-mouth disease

Resolution on foot-and-mouth disease

The European Parliament,

- A. whereas more than 4 million animals, mainly sheep, were slaughtered in the United Kingdom as a preventive measure,
 - B. whereas the Commission's productivity-oriented policy, fraud and the closure of many slaughterhouses in the United Kingdom are among the causes of foot-and-mouth disease,
 - C. noting that the abolition of border controls inherent in the introduction of the single market on 1 January 1993 and the Maastricht Treaty is largely responsible for the BSE epidemic and the foot-and-mouth crisis,
 - D. whereas the foot-and-mouth virus, of Asian origin, probably spread via Turkey, Bulgaria and Greece, before reaching a farm in Northern England on 20 February this year, since when there have been more than 2 000 outbreaks in the United Kingdom,
 - E. whereas for the feast of Aid El Kebir cheaper British sheep were imported fraudulently into France and helped to spread the virus,
- 1. Considers that the lifting of the restrictions on trading in sheep and cattle must comply with strict health and epidemiological safety measures,
 - 2. Is surprised at the decision of the Court of Justice of last July endorsing the general principle of banning vaccination against foot-and-mouth disease;
 - 3. Points out that at present the principle of regionalisation is the only system which ensures that European exporting countries free of foot-and-mouth disease are not penalised;
 - 4. Considers that the cost of the epidemic (between EUR 500 and 700 million) unfairly penalises farmers who do not use intensive farming methods and obliges the Member States to use their agricultural budget to finance support measures for the sectors affected;
 - 5. Considers that the reasons for abandoning vaccination in 1990 on the UK's initiative should be examined without any preconceptions and that the possibility of introducing vaccination, accompanied by serological checks on flocks, should be considered;
 - 6. Notes that since France has regained its status as a country free of foot-and-mouth without vaccination, there is no longer any reason to impose trade restrictions on French meat products;

7. Wonders about possible fraud relating to refunds for flocks slaughtered in the United Kingdom because payments are higher than the market price (with the European Union reimbursing 60% of the compensation paid to farmers whose flocks are slaughtered because of the disease);
8. Emphasises that marker tests which can distinguish between healthy vaccinated animals and contaminated animals should be put onto the market as soon as possible;
9. Points out that the foot-and-mouth crisis should not be used as a pretext for renationalising the CAP and once again modifying the COM in beef and extensification premiums;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments of the Member States.