

3/9/01

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B5-573/01

Motion for a resolution  
tabled according to article 50

**by Caroline Lucas, Paul Lannoye, Heidi Hautala, Nelly Maes, Friedrich Wilhelm Graefe zu Baringdorf, Eurig Wyn, Patricia McKenna, Danielle Auroi, Jean Lambert, Marianne Isler-Béguin**

**on behalf of the GREENS/EFA group to wind up the debate on the urgency concerning foot and mouth disease.**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the report of the Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare as adopted on March 10 1999
- having regard to Council directive 92/119/EC and directive 85/511/EEC, as amended by directive 90/423/EC,
- having regard to Commission decisions following the outbreak of FMD in the UK, F and NL (2001/145/EC, 2001/172/EC, 2001/190/EC; 2001/208/EC; 2001/223/EC;....)

Whereas

- a. new significant outbreaks of FMD in the UK before the high season of animal movements are an alarming signal that the disease is still virulent and not under control;
- b. the weather conditions during autumn will thrive the spreading of the disease, as the virus gets more virulent in cold and wet climate;
- c. after severe culling measures in spring, limited disinfection and control of transport may have favoured a new spreading of the disease during summer, and competent authorities may have started too early to drop their guard;
- d. FMD has had a much deeper and broader impact on the economy and social life of the UK than anyone expected, it had disastrous effects on remote rural regions, and affected farming, processing, trade and tourism and brought numerous farmers to ruin;
- e. the notion of an EU-wide FMD free status has proved not to be a viable strategy, and needs urgently to be revised and modified;
- f. directive 92/119/EC (Art. 14) currently prohibits vaccination in the member states, and any curative healing methods;
- g. increasing mobility of animals, feedstuff, food and people makes it extremely difficult to avoid and efficiently control the transfer into and the spreading of diseases within the UK and the EU;
- h. 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;
- i. the EU is the biggest net importer of food and feed in the world; but in order to keep full access to the world markets with the FMD free status, unnecessarily takes the risk of ruining its own farmers and related rural industries by culling and destroying millions of animals;
- j. high specialisation in animal breeding, concentration of specialised farm industries in certain regions has increased the intensity and the distances of transport between farms and the centralised processing industries, thus increasing the risk of a spreading a disease throughout the EU and to third countries;

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- k. the enlargement of the EU and a growing border to third countries is increasing the risk and the variety of possible infections in the EU, which makes it less probable to effectively defend the FMD free status of the EU;
1. urges the UK government to impose a strict ban on transport to and from FMD infected areas until there is evidence of no more FMD cases for at least 6 months, to allow emergency vaccination where appropriate and to temporarily close down all cattle markets which might become the source of further spreading of the disease;
  2. urges the Council to declare a moratorium on the ban for vaccination and to allow member states and regional authorities, 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;
  3. calls upon the Commission to revise the EU strategy of defending by all means the FMD-free status as culling and destruction of infected animals proves not to be effective;
  4. calls upon the Commission and the Council to set strict limits and where necessary strict bans on transport of live animals and animal products throughout the EU in order to prevent further spreading of the disease; and to work out a common strategy for an overall reduction of animal transport for the future (maximum of 4 hours total transport, only allowing restrictive and temporary solutions such as mobile slaughter facilities for remote regions);
  5. calls upon the Commission and the member states to revise 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;
  6. urges the Commission to make a proposal for registration of sources, utilisation and treatment of swill in order to prevent that untreated or insufficiently sterilised swill being used in animal feed ;
  7. asks the Commission to allow specific urgency measures in all member states to protect rare breeds ;
  8. calls upon the Commission to carry out an in-dept investigation to establish whether the measures taken by the UK and other member states to date to prevent the spreading of the disease were appropriate and taken in due time;
  9. calls upon the Commission to guarantee a clear labelling of FMD vaccinated animals and to allow a strictly controlled marketing and processing of these animals only inside the internal EU market;
  10. calls upon the Commission to initiate scientific research about specific resistance and immunisation in various animal breeds and races as well as under various breeding conditions;
  11. 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 to all rural stakeholders including farmers, those involved in tourist and sporting activities and others who live and work in the countryside;
  12. calls upon the Commission to propose to the Council and the Parliament an immediate ad-hoc support programme for farmers and rural industries, in regions most affected by FMD;