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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 Salvador Jové Peres, Ilda Figueiredo, Ioannis Patakis, Dimitrios Koulourianos and Armando Cossutta

on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

on foot and mouth disease

Resolution on foot and mouth disease

The European Parliament,

- A. whereas the fact that cases of foot and mouth disease in the United Kingdom continue to break out and that winter weather will increase the risk of the disease spreading,
 - B. whereas the disease was brought in with irregular imports of foodstuffs and the recycling as animal feed of inadequately treated catering waste,
 - C. whereas liberalisation of trade increases the risks of exposure to epidemics, and veterinary checks at ports and airports generally are insufficiently uniform or rigorous,
 - D. whereas the Common Agricultural Policy insists on boosting competitiveness on the basis of animal feed, transporting and concentrating livestock, increasing the size of stock-raising holdings and concentrating them in a few regions, all of which have undesirable health effects,
 - E. whereas stock raisers bear the brunt of the economic impact of the disease, whereas the measures adopted hitherto seek only to protect commercial interests,
 - F. whereas the farming economy had already been hard hit by the BSE crisis,
 - G. whereas the lessons of the past must be learned, the better to avert and control any outbreaks of livestock epidemics,
- 1. Calls on the Commission to draw up a report to the European Parliament and the Council on:
 - measures to be adopted to reduce to the maximum extent possible the risk of foot and mouth outbreaks within the European Union,
 - the best means of reacting to any livestock epidemic liable to break out in future,
 - the economic consequences of livestock epidemics,
 - ways and means of introducing new support mechanisms for producers complying with technical conditions of production to be specified;
 - 2. Regrets that deregulation in the pigmeat sector and the absence of inspections have allowed the disease to be brought in, and are the root cause of the slowness and lack of efficiency in detecting and controlling the epidemic;
 - 3. Calls on the Commission to submit proposals for standardising veterinary checks at ports and airports, and to arrange for these to be stepped up where the volume of imports is greatest;
 - 4. Is concerned that the economic impact of the disease is being borne by producers already hard hit by the BSE crisis, and that the measures adopted are aimed principally at safeguarding commercial interests;

5. Notes that restrictions in livestock transport mainly affect smaller-sized farms for reasons of profitability of transport to slaughterhouses, and considers it necessary to introduce specific forms of aid for the farms hardest hit;
6. Is concerned at the absence of Common Agricultural Policy mechanisms to limit the impact of undesirable food, health or veterinary situations and the crises these can unleash;
7. Advocates the establishment of a budget line for 'Food, health and veterinary crises' outside heading 1 of the financial perspective;
8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the Governments of the Member States.