

10/6/02

Strasbourg, 10 June 2002

B5-367/02

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 Rijk van Dam on behalf of the EDD Group

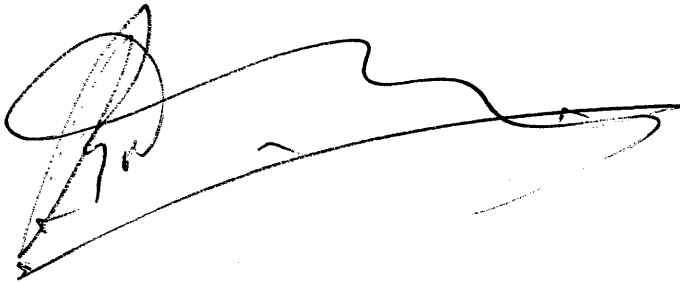
on foot-and-mouth disease and the World Cup football in South Korea

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the millions of, mostly healthy, animals culled and the heavy social and psychological impact on both farmers and non-farmers caused by the outbreak of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) in the EU in 2001;
 - having regard to the huge financial losses in the farming business, the tourist business and in those businesses which happened to be located in FMD affected areas;
 - having regard to the FMD outbreak in South Korea in April 2002, involving 851 confirmed and reported cases;
 - having regard to the World Cup football being held in South Korea and Japan from 31 May to 30 June 2002, which are expected to attract over 650 000 visitors, including a large number of citizens of EU member states;
- A. whereas Directive 72/462 (EEC) of 12 December 1972 on health and veterinary inspection problems upon importation of bovine animals and swine and fresh meat from third countries does not apply to meat forming part of travellers' personal luggage and intended for their personal consumption, in so far as the amount or quantity transported does not exceed 1 kg per person and provided that the meat comes from a third country or part of a third country appearing on the list drawn up in accordance with Article 3 of the Directive, and whereas South Korea does not appear on that list;
- B. whereas the FMD virus can be readily transmitted, e.g. from food items carried by tourists such as soccer fans, if the food contains FMD-infected products of animal origin,
- C. whereas the human body may act as a vector for the spread of the disease, although the virus is not dangerous for human beings;
- D. whereas border controls and prevention measures aimed at prohibiting the introduction of FMD-virus by tourists are much less stringent at EU airports compared with the measures taken at airports and border control posts in the United States, Australia and New Zealand;
- E. whereas the report of the Commission's Food and Veterinary Office concerning border inspection posts (DG(SANCO) 3387/2001-MR Final) found serious failings in the measures applied at ports and airports with regard to import controls on food and animals;

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1. Calls on the Member States to immediately increase their control measures at EU airports and border control posts with respect to the import of food by tourists from non-EU countries, making, in particular, increased use of sniffer dogs;
2. Calls on the Member States to immediately launch an information campaign to highlight the risks of introducing FMD in the EU by imported foodstuffs which may contain the FMD-virus;
3. Proposes that any person entering the EU from a country which has not been FMD-free for three months according to the International Animal Health Code of the International Office of Epizootics (OIE) should:
 - be allowed to enter the EU only after signing a document in which the dangers connected with FMD and the possibilities of transmitting the virus are described comprehensively; this document should be available in the official languages of the EU and in the language of those countries which have not been FMD-free for the last three months;
 - confirm by their signature that he/she has understood the content of the document;
 - confirm that he/she has had no contact with agricultural premises with dangerous contacts as regards FMD;
 - confirm that he/she is not carrying any food which contains animal products;
 - be subject to specific control and hygiene measures if there is sufficient reason to believe that he/she may pose a risk of FMD transmission;
4. Calls on the Commission to draw up, together with the Member States, a detailed strategy aimed at reducing the risk of introduction of FMD by tourists and to submit either an adequate administrative proposal or a legislative proposal to Parliament and the Council as soon as possible; the strategy should include minimum standards for control measures at the borders of the EU and at EU airports; the standards should be in line with the stringent standards applied in the U.S.A., Australia and New Zealand;
5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a cursive name, possibly starting with 'P' and 'M', written across the lower left portion of the page.