

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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## MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure

by Redondo Jiménez, Sturdy, Parish and Maat in the name of the EPP-ED Group,

Kreissl-Dorfler, Ferreira and van den Berg in the name of the PSE Group,

Mulder on behalf of the ELDR Group

Lucas and Wyn on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Berlato and Hyland on behalf of the UEN Group

on foot-and-mouth disease and the football world championships in South Korea

**European Parliament resolution on foot-and-mouth disease and the football world championships in South Korea**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the huge economic losses and the heavy social and psychological impact caused by foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in the EU in 2001,
  - having regard to the FMD outbreak in South Korea in April 2002, involving 851 confirmed and reported cases,
  - having regard to the football world championships (World Cup) being held in South Korea and Japan from 31 May to 30 June, which are expected to attract over 650 000 visitors, including a large proportion from the EU,
- 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 carried by tourists, if it 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 avoiding the introduction of FMD by tourists are much less stringent at EU airports compared with the measures taken in the United States, Australia or 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,
1. Calls on the Member States to immediately tighten up their control measures at EU airports 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 imported foodstuffs which may carry the 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;
  - confirm via 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 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 not be weaker than the most stringent standards applied in comparable countries;
5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.

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