

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4153/05

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to the Commission

Subject: Scientific opinion of the EFSA (European Food Safety Authority) on BHV1 infections in cattle herds (EFSA-Q-2005-018)

1. The current situation in the European Union regarding Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR) varies between Member States (e.g. compulsory eradication programmes, voluntary eradication programmes or no action). When drawing up its scientific opinion, ought the EFSA to consult farmers about the requirements applicable to 'IBR-free' status?
2. Will the EFSA consider the issue of cost-effectiveness in its scientific opinion?
3. Is a consistent definition of 'IBR-free' required in the EU in order to prevent the erection of new internal barriers to trade?
4. Has the Commission made provision for budgetary support for programmes to eradicate livestock diseases in the European Union? If not, why not?
5. What does the EFSA regard as the definition of an IBR-free farm? Does an IBR-free farm in the Netherlands comply with European standards? If not, why not?
6. Can the IBR criteria in connection with Articles 9 and 10 lead to culling of animals when outbreaks occur?
7. Does the Commission consider the numerous eradication programmes for animal diseases to be a potential obstacle to the internal market? In view of developments in veterinary science since 1964, would it be desirable to call for an evaluation of Article 9 of Directive 64/432/EEC<sup>1</sup>?

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<sup>1</sup> OJ 121, 29.7.1964, p. 1977.