

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0010/08
by Jean-Pierre Audy (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Funding the electronic identification of ovine and caprine animals for the benefit of farmers

In December 2007, the European Parliament adopted, by a very large majority, a legislative resolution (P6_TA(2007)0619) on the proposal for a Council regulation amending the regulation introducing electronic identification for ovine and caprine animals, in the light of the experience acquired during the foot-and-mouth epidemic of 2001, which had highlighted the need to install traceability systems tailored to the sector's specific needs. The amending Regulation concerns the date on which the electronic identification system should come into force, which should have been 1 January 2008. Parliament proposed 31 December 2009, but nevertheless this system is going to be a costly one for a problematic sector which has never been done any favours.

Against this background, what does the Council think of the idea advocated by Parliament, of investigating and creating, in the framework of the Health Check of the CAP Reform, the possibility of helping farmers to cope with the high cost of procuring the required equipment (hardware and software), by making it possible for Member States to incorporate such measures within their rural development programmes?