

ORAL QUESTION H-0104/05
for Question Time at the part-session in February 2005
pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure
by Bogdan Golik
to the Commission

Subject: Purchase of BSE tests in Poland

In a desire to meet the conditions of membership for the EU, Poland has rigorously applied Community regulations and so is testing for BSE. This is being done out of concern for the health of EU citizens who might encounter Polish beef and beef products. In the meantime, the commitment of a large number of individuals and the dedicated efforts of two years of solid, hard and intensive work via tender procedure have come to nothing. The report on the activities under the PHARE programme, the main aim of which was to ensure research into BSE in livestock, was rejected by the European Commission Representative, which also cancelled the tender. The resulting situation caused an undesirable turnaround of affairs for Poland, which was compelled to ask the European Commission Representative to agree to reopening the tender and extending the contract period, or to agree to initiating an open tender with a shortened notice period. If agreed to, this will unquestionably lead to all manner of procedural activities with huge time pressures and funds will have to be committed from Poland's own budget which had been allocated to other objectives linked to the fight against contagious diseases. This will cause a temporary budget shortfall for the Veterinary Inspectorate, whilst also drastically reducing (by over 25%) the funds for the prevention of other animal diseases.

Is this how cooperation between jointly responsible bodies should operate? Is this the only form of assistance that Poland can expect from the Commission?

Tabled: 10.02.2005
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