

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

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*Committee on International Trade*

**2007/2260(INI)**

26.2.2008

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on International Trade

for the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

on a new Animal Health Strategy for the European Union (2007-2013)  
(2007/2260(INI))

Draftsperson: Béla Glattfelder

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## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on International Trade calls on the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Considers that a high level of animal health and welfare within the EU provides a good basis for exports but that unjustified third country sanitary barriers need to be addressed if European farmers are to be able to compete on fair terms;
2. Is concerned that European standards could be undermined by imports from third countries whose farmers do not face the same obligations with regard to animal health and welfare; asks the Commission to investigate ways to safeguard against this, including consideration of import measures, and by raising this in the relevant WTO fora for debate;
3. Considers that the delay in taking measures to ensure that imports of Brazilian beef come only from cattle that are free of foot-and-mouth disease risks undermining public confidence in the EU animal health regime;
4. Calls on the Commission to ensure that the outcome of WTO negotiations does not undermine the ability of European farmers to maintain and enhance animal health and welfare standards; considers that the possibility of subjecting imported products to the same requirements as European products is a major factor in ensuring a balanced outcome to the negotiations;
5. Invites the Commission to ensure eggs are designated as a sensitive product as an outcome of the WTO negotiations in order to protect the progress made on animal health and welfare in this area of farming;
6. Is concerned about the growing evidence that links the increasing international trade in live birds and poultry products with the development and spread of diseases such as avian flu; asks the Commission to investigate this evidence and bring forward appropriate policy proposals as necessary;
7. Welcomes the Commission's intention to respect WTO commitments regarding sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures but considers that this should not preclude the possibility - specifically admissible under the SPS agreement - of introducing measures that lead to higher standards of protection where this is sufficiently scientifically justified; considers in addition that it is important to encourage their international adoption in order to ensure upward convergence;
8. Believes that the new generation of Free Trade Agreements with India, Korea and the countries of south-east Asia should have a balanced chapter on SPS measures and animal welfare;
9. Calls on the Commission to integrate animal health and welfare in all its development programmes, in order to achieve consistency with the internal approach and extend the benefits of these policies to partner countries;

10. Urges the Commission to conclude veterinary protocols with potential export markets, such as China's.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	26.2.2008
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 13 -: 0:
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Francisco Assis, Daniel Caspary, Christofer Fjellner, Béla Glattfelder, Jacky Hénin, Erika Mann, David Martin, Georgios Papastamkos, Peter Šťastný, Iuliu Winkler
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Jean-Pierre Audy, Sajjad Karim, Zbigniew Zaleski