

WRITTEN QUESTION P-0029/04
by Heinz Kindermann (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Closure of veterinary border control point at Pomellen, Germany

According to a Commission consultation document, the veterinary border control point at Pomellen in Germany is one of those to be taken off the list of authorised EU veterinary border control points when enlargement occurs (i.e. in principle on 1 May 2004). Four months before enlargement, however, the Commission has yet to provide any official information concerning the future of veterinary control points at the borders with the accession countries. However, the operating authorities - in this case the administrative district of Uecker-Randow - require definite information in order to put an end to the uncertainty affecting their planning.

The EU has granted the 10 accession countries wide-ranging transitional arrangements in the veterinary and food sector (slaughterhouses, milk producers etc.) on condition that their non-EU-compliant products are marketed only in the relevant accession country and do not therefore enter the internal market.

1. Can the Commission say definitely when the veterinary border control point at Pomellen will lose its EU authorisation and thereby its responsibility for veterinary checks at the border?
2. In the event of closure, must the EU funding provided to build the veterinary border control point be repaid, even if the closure is the result of an EU decision?
3. How does the Commission intend to ensure that non-EU-compliant products do not enter the EU's internal market? Is it possible to maintain veterinary checks at the borders with the future Member States for the duration of the transitional arrangements?
4. Does the Commission consider that there is a need to maintain the veterinary border control point at the internal customs office at Pomellen in the context of the draft regulation concerning the future official checks on consignments of food and feed before they enter the territory of a Member State, i.e. Germany?