

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

15 November 2000

B5-0869/2000 }
B5-0870/2000 }
B5-0873/2000 }
B5-0875/2000 }
B5-0878/2000 }
B5-0880/2000 }
RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 37(4) of the Rules of Procedure by

- Reimer Böge, Françoise Grossetête and Francesco Fiori on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Dagmar Roth-Behrendt on behalf of the PSE Group
- Karl Erik Olsson, Jan Mulder and Marit Paulsen on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Danielle Auroi and Friedrich-Wilhelm Graefe zu Baringdorf on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Sylviane Ainardi, Mihail Papayannakis, Laura González Álvarez, Jonas Sjöstedt, Salvador Jové Peres, Ilda Figueiredo, Armando Cossutta and Christel Fiebiger on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group
- Charles Pasqua, Dominique Souchet, Liam Hyland and Sergio Berlato on behalf of the UEN Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- UEN (B5-0869/2000),
- ELDR (B5-0870/2000),
- PSE (B5-0873/2000),
- Verts/ALE (B5-0875/2000),
- GUE/NGL (B5-0878/2000),
- PPE-DE (B5-0880/2000),

on BSE and safety of animal feedingstuffs

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PE 279.796}
PE 279.797}
PE 297.800}
PE 297.802}
PE 297.805}
PE 297.807} RC1

European Parliament resolution on BSE and safety of animal feedingstuffs

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on BSE, especially those of 19 February 1997 concerning the conclusions of the temporary committee of inquiry into BSE and 19 November 1997 concerning the follow-up committee on implementation of the recommendations of the committee of inquiry,
 - having regard to the joint conference of the EP and the Commission on BSE,
 - having regard to the outcome of the joint conference of the EP and the Commission on meat and bone meal on 1 and 2 July 1997,
 - having regard to its report on TSE (A5-0117/2000) adopted on 17 May 2000,
 - having regard to the Commission proposal COM (2000) 574 for exclusion of fallen animals from the production of meat and bone meal and the food chain,
 - having regard to the SSC's opinion on the geographical risk assessment for TSE adopted on 1 August 2000,
 - having regard to Article 153 of the EC Treaty (consumer protection), which guarantees that, in order to promote the interests of consumers and to ensure a high level of consumer protection, the Community will contribute to protecting the health, safety and economic interests of consumers, as well as to promoting their right to information,
- A. whereas all decisions regarding the placing and maintenance on the market of food and feedingstuffs must be based on the precautionary principle and scientific evidence,
- B. whereas the proper functioning of the single market requires that decisions which were made at European level in accordance with provisions laid down by the Treaties and secondary European legislation must be respected by Member States,
- C. whereas it is fundamental to EU food policy that only safe food and feedingstuffs should be allowed to be put on the market,
- D. whereas a 6-month experimental testing programme begun in June 2000 has uncovered up to 35 cases of BSE infection in animals that would not have been identified under normal veterinary inspections,

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- E. whereas it still has occurred in certain Member States that meat and bone meal has been fed to ruminants due to fraud or cross-contamination (according to the Commission's Veterinary inspections in 1999),
1. Takes the view that traceability of food all the way from feed and field to stable and table should be a cornerstone of EU food policy;
 2. Takes the view that it should be considered a crime to knowingly allow an infected animal, or one suspected of being infected, to enter the food chain;
 3. Recalls that a ban on feeding ruminants with meat and bone meal has been in force in the entire EU since 1994; insists that non-ruminants should under no circumstances be fed with animal proteins which derive from sources not authorised for human consumption;
 4. Deplores the lack of harmonisation of the ban on animal meal; calls for a ban on animal feed production and farm feeding practices that involve recycling animal remains to cattle, sheep, goats and to any other animals including poultry and fish as long as Member States cannot guarantee the implementation of existing EU laws concerning BSE prevention (treatment at 133°C, 3 bar for 20 minutes; guaranteed separation of SRMs, etc.) and as long as the separation of fallen animals as proposed by the Commission (COM (2000)574) has not come into force;
 5. Points out in this regard that blood and blood products must also be subject to a total ban in feedingstuffs destined for all animals - this includes mixing blood and blood products with other products;
 6. Reiterates the need for the highest possible hygiene standards and protection of human health to apply also to third countries and calls upon the Commission to implement relevant legislation and take the necessary steps at international level;
 7. Reiterates its call for the rapid introduction of compulsory testing for BSE in all bovines, ovines and goats destined for slaughter, starting with all those above 18 months of age, in all Member States in order to obtain a clear picture of the epidemiological situation throughout the EU;
 8. Insists that, within the framework of budgetary conciliation, the necessary financial resources for the application of the tests and further purifying measures must be made available;
 9. Calls upon the Commission to complete the IOE Standards and the risk classification of the Scientific Steering Committee in the light of the test results so as to be able to use this as a basis for recasting the existing Community provisions on meat, meat products, animal meal and risk materials in the interests of preventative consumer protection;
 10. Reiterates its call for research into and funding for rapid diagnostic tests for TSEs;

11. Reiterates its call for entire herds to be removed from the food chain when a test shows a positive result;
12. Hopes that a Community plan for transport, storage and incineration of animal meal will be implemented rapidly;
13. Insists that the same standards are applied to the production of organic fertilisers and other products containing meat and bone meal, bone meal or horn;
14. Suggests that the utilisation of animal waste products not approved for human consumption (e.g. biogas, co-incineration in electricity plants, cement production and bio-fuels) should be investigated and support given to research and development;
15. Condemns Member States for dragging their feet in implementing the relevant necessary legislation with regard to hygiene, feedingstuff production methods, the treatment of risk material, animal nutrition and inspection and labelling;
16. Calls upon the Commission to inform Parliament as to which Member States have implemented and properly enforced EU legislation dealing with the ban on meat and bonemeal in feedingstuffs destined for ruminants and the heat/pressure method for producing meat and bonemeal;
17. Calls upon the Commission to prepare a proposal obliging Member States to report annually to the Commission and Parliament the outcome of enforcement of all relevant EU legislation dealing with the beef sector and animal nutrition and inspection, especially the total number, frequency and place of hygiene inspections in feedingstuff production and the beef sector;
18. Underlines its call for an emergency system (using temporary injunctions) which would enable the Commission to take immediate action when Community standards are not properly implemented or their implementation monitored in the Member States, as the infringement proceedings pursuant to Article 169 of the Treaty take too much time to ensure consumer protection against immediate risks;
19. Points out that, at present, no common provisions exist to combat scrapie and, therefore, calls on the Council to examine, at last, the TSE Regulation;
20. Underlines that the open declaration of all ingredients which form part of any animal feed produced and marketed in the EU needs to be delivered by the animal feed industry;
21. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.