

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(89) 496 final

Brussels, 17 October 1989

Proposal for a
COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC)
concerning game meat and rabbit meat

(presented by the Commission)

20-4564

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

- A. The health rules affecting intra-Community trade in fresh meat have been laid down in Council Directive 64/433/EEC. Those rules have been partially extended to the local market by Directive 88/409/EEC.

The health rules for fresh poultry meat have been established in Directive 71/118/EEC.

In order to have a harmonious function of the internal market it is opportune to harmonize the health rules for rabbit and game meat.

- B. This harmonization is necessary for the following reasons :

1. To have a uniform health guarantee in all the Community in order to assure a free circulation of all the goods, assuring at the same time a high level of protection of animal and public health.
2. Reduce the distortion of competition between producers established in different countries of the Community.
3. Have the possibility of controlling the infectious diseases present in wild life that could be transmitted to domesticated animals.

- C. The proposed action is the following :

1. Environmental control of infectious and parasitic diseases of game animals and rabbit.
2. Rules for veterinary inspection of game meat and rabbit meat.
3. Hygienic rules for processing of game meat and rabbit meat.
4. Conditions concerning equipment of establishments producing game meat and rabbit meat in order to allow the hygiene of the operations.

- D. The general administrative rules being the same, a difference is made between specific rules concerning rabbit meat, farmed game meat and wild game meat in order to take account of specific health problems limited to each of those categories of animals.
- E. The Commission has proposed the procedure of the regulatory committee, since it wished to avoid disrupting the existing management machinery in the veterinary field. More generally, however, the Commission continues to prefer the advisory committee procedure.
- F. The Commission will present in a short time the health rules applicable to meat products prepared with game meat and rabbit meat, the health rules on their importation from third countries and the rules for research of residues in farmed game meat and meat of domestic rabbit.

Proposal for a
COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC)
concerning game meat and rabbit meat

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 43 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament,

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee,

Whereas rabbit meat and game meat are included in the list of products in Annex II to the Treaty; whereas rabbit and game farming are generally included in the farming sector; whereas this farming and the income from game constitutes a source of income for part of the farming population;

Whereas, in order to ensure the rational development of this sector and to increase productivity, rules concerning public health and animal health problems affecting production and commercialization of game meat and rabbit meat must be laid down at Community level;

Whereas disparities as regards animal health and public health conditions in the Member States should be eliminated in order to encourage intra-Community trade in rabbit meat and game meat, thus contributing to the completion of the internal market;

Whereas diseases transmissible to domestic animals and humans may be spread by game meat and rabbit meat; whereas it is necessary to lay down rules enabling the control of these risks;

Whereas game meat and rabbit meat must be treated hygienically in order to avoid food-borne infections and intoxications;

Whereas Council Directive 82/894/EEC of 21 December 1982 concerning the notification of animal diseases within the Community (1), as last amended by Directive 89/162/EEC (2), lays down the conditions for notification of animal diseases in the Community; whereas the appearance or presence of certain contagious animal diseases in wildlife in one region of the Community may present a risk to wildlife in other regions of the Community as well as to Community herds; whereas it is opportune to have for certain contagious diseases in wildlife the same information as for domestic animals;

Whereas Council Directive 64/433/EEC of 26 June 1964 on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in fresh meat (3) as last amended by Directive 88/657/EEC (4), lays down the health requirements for fresh meat, whereas farmed wildlife used for game production are kept under conditions similar to those used for farmed mammals and farmed birds; whereas it is opportune to extend to farmed game the same health rules already adapted for fresh meat and poultry meat;

Whereas it is opportune to lay down exceptions for small quantities of rabbit meat and game meat used for local trade;

Whereas, in respect of the organization of and the follow-up to the checks to be carried out by the Member State of destination and the safeguard measures to be implemented, reference should be made to the general rules laid down in Council Regulation (EEC) No.of concerning veterinary checks in intra-Community trade in view of the completion of the internal market;

Whereas the Commission should be entrusted with the task of adopting measures for applying this Regulation; whereas, to that end, provision should be made for procedures establishing close and effective cooperation between the Commission and the Member States within the Standing Veterinary Committee,

(1) OJ No L 378, 31.12.1982, p. 58.

(2) OJ No L 61, 4.3.1989, p. 48.

(3) OJ No 121, 29.7.1964, p. 2012/64.

(4) OJ No L 382, 31.12.1988, p. 3.

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

CHAPTER I
GENERAL RULES

Article 1

This Regulation lays down the requirements concerning public health and animal health problems affecting production and placing on the market of game meat and rabbit meat.

Article 2

For the purpose of this Regulation, the following definitions shall apply:

1. "game meat": all parts of game suitable for human consumption;
2. "farmed game meat": all parts of wild mammals and wild birds bred, kept and killed in captivity, which are suitable for human consumption;
3. "wild game meat": all parts of wild mammals and wild birds killed in their environment according to hunting rules, which are suitable for human consumption;
4. "game": land mammals, or birds, not considered as domestic and not referred to in Article 1(1) of Directive 64/433/EEC or in Article 1 of Council Directive 71/118/EEC of 15 February 1971 on health problems affecting trade in fresh poultry meat (1);
5. "big game": cloven hoofed wild mammals;
6. "small game": wild mammals of the Leporidae family and wild game birds;
7. "feathered game": game birds;
8. "furred game": game mammals;

(1) OJ No L 55, 08.03.1971, p. 23.

9. "rabbit meat": all parts of domestic rabbit which are suitable for human consumption;
10. "official service": the veterinary service or any other service of equivalent level appointed by the Member State concerned to monitor the implementation of this Regulation;
11. "area of hunting": the area where the wild game can move freely;
12. "game processing house": an approved establishment used for dressing, health inspection and, if necessary, cutting of wild game carcasses;
13. "rabbit slaughterhouse": an approved slaughterhouse used for slaughtering and health inspection of domestic rabbit;
14. "country of production": the Member State in the territory of which the establishment is located.

The definitions given in Article 2 of Directive 64/433/EEC and Article 2 of Directive 71/118/EEC shall apply.

CHAPTER II

RULES RELATING TO PRODUCTION AND COMMERCIALIZATION OF GAME MEAT AND RABBIT MEAT

Article 3

1. The survey of the health status of game and rabbit shall be performed at regular intervals in each Member State.

To this end a central service or body shall be entrusted with the task of collecting and exploiting the results of the health inspections carried out according to this Regulation, in case of diagnosis of diseases or conditions transmissible to humans or animals or presence of residues in excess of the admitted levels.

2. Where a disease or condition referred to in paragraph 1 is diagnosed, the results of the specific case shall be communicated as soon as possible to the official service responsible for the supervision of the herd from which the animals originate or, in the case of wild game, the hunting area from which the game originates.
3. The official service, taking into account the epizootological situation, shall require specific tests on wild game in order to detect the presence of the diseases referred to in Annex I to Directive 82/894/EEC.

The presence of these diseases shall be communicated to the Commission and to the other Member States in accordance with Directive 82/894/EEC.

Article 4

1. Intra-Community trade of game meat shall be subject to appropriate animal health rules governing intra-Community trade of fresh meat referred to in :
 - (a) Council Directive 72/461/EEC of 12 December 1972 on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in fresh meat (1) or
 - (b) Council Regulation (EEC)[concerning the animal health conditions governing intra-Community trade and importation from third countries of poultry fresh meat and farmed feathered game].
2. In addition, taking into account the presence of diseases referred to in Article 3(3) limitation on the use of game meat arising from specified hunting areas may be imposed by the official service of the Member State in the territory of which the disease has been found.
3. In accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 21 additional requirements may be decided on.

Article 5

1. Member States shall supplement their plans for residues referred to in Article 4 of Council Directive 86/469/EEC of 16 September 1986 concerning the examination of animals and fresh meat for the presence of residues (2) in order to monitor wild game for contaminants present in the environment.

(1) OJ No L 302, 21.12.1972, p. 24.

(2) OJ No L 270, 10.10.1986, p. 36.

2. Taking into account the results of the monitoring referred to in paragraph 1, limitations on the use of game meat arising from specified hunting areas may be imposed.
3. In accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 21, additional requirements may be decided on.

Article 6

1. Farmed game meat obtained from big game shall fulfil the conditions referred to in Article 3 of Directive 64/433/EEC.
2. Notwithstanding paragraph 1, until the adoption of the rules referred to in Article 5(1) of Council Directive 88/409/EEC of 15 June 1988 laying down the health rules applying to meat intended for the domestic market and the levels of the fees to be charged, pursuant to Directive 85/73/EEC, in respect of the inspection of such meat (1), the slaughtering of farmed big game and cutting and storage of meat referred to in paragraph 1 can be performed in establishments approved by the national authorities for the national market, provided that such meat does not enter the intra-Community trade.
3. Notwithstanding paragraph 1 the official service may authorize the shooting of farmed game in the place of origin where it cannot be transported in order to avoid any risk for the handler or to protect the welfare of animals. This authorization may be granted if:
 - a request is presented by the owner of animals and
 - the official service is previously informed of the date of slaughtering of these animals and
 - the herd is not put under restrictions following the survey performed according to Articles 4 and 5.

(1) OJ No L 194, 22.07.1988, p. 28

4. Meat from wild pigs or other species sensitive to *Trichina* infestation shall be subjected to examination by digestion in accordance with Council Directive 77/96/EEC of 21 December 1976 on examination for Trichinae (*trichinella spiralis*) upon importation from third countries of fresh meat derived from domestic swine (1).

Article 7

Farmed game meat obtained from feathered game shall fulfil the conditions referred to in Article 3 of Directive 71/118/EEC.

Article 8

1. Wild game meat shall:

- (a) be handled in a game processing house fulfilling the requirements of Annex II, Chapter III, or a slaughterhouse approved and supervised in accordance with Article 13;
- (b) come from wild game killed in their environment, and treated in accordance with Annex II, Chapter I;
- (c) be treated during and after processing in a game processing house or a slaughterhouse under satisfactory hygiene conditions similar to those provided for in Chapter IV of Annex I to Directive 64/433/EEC for big game and Chapter III of Annex I to Directive 71/118/EEC for small game;
- (d) be inspected post-mortem by an official veterinarian in accordance with Chapter II of Annex I and not have shown any change except for traumatic lesions which occurred during hunting or localized malformations or changes provided that it is established, if necessary by appropriate laboratory tests, that these do not render the carcass and offal unfit for human consumption or dangerous to human health;
- (e) bear a health mark in accordance with Chapter IV of Annex II;

(1) OJ No L 26, 31.01.1977, p. 67.

- (f) be stored in accordance with Chapter V of Annex II after post-mortem inspection under satisfactory conditions in establishments approved in accordance with Article 13 or in stores approved according to Directive 64/433/EEC;.
- (g) be transported under satisfactory hygiene conditions in accordance with Chapter V of Annex II;

2. In addition to paragraph 1:

- (a) meat from wild pigs or other species sensitive to *Trichina* infestation shall be subjected to examination by one of the digestion methods referred to in Directive 77/96/EEC;
- (b) parts of carcasses or boned meat of small game shall be obtained in conditions similar to those provided for in Article 3(B) of Directive 71/118/EEC, in establishments approved for this purpose in accordance with Article 13;
- (c) parts of carcasses or boned meat of big game shall be obtained in conditions similar to those provided for in Article 3(1)(B) of Directive 64/433/EEC, in establishments approved for this purpose in accordance with Article 13.

Article 9

1. Rabbit meat shall:

- (a) be obtained in an establishment fulfilling the general requirements of Directive 71/118/EEC and approved for this purpose in accordance with Article 13;
- (b) come from a slaughtered animal inspected ante-mortem by an official veterinarian, in accordance with Annex I, Chapter I, and passed fit, as a result of such inspection, for slaughter;
- (c) be treated under satisfactory hygiene conditions similar to those provided for in Chapter III of Annex I to Directive 71/118/EEC;

- (d) be inspected post-mortem by an official veterinarian in accordance with Chapter II of Annex I and have not shown any change except for traumatic lesions which occurred shortly before slaughter or localized malformations or changes, provided that it is established, if necessary by appropriate laboratory tests, that these do not render the carcass and offal unfit for human consumption or dangerous to human health;
 - (e) bear a health mark in accordance with Chapter III of Annex I;
 - (f) be stored in accordance with Chapter IV of Annex I after post-mortem inspection under satisfactory hygiene conditions in establishments approved for this purpose in accordance with Article 13 or in stores approved according to Directive 64/433/EEC;
 - (g) be transported under satisfactory hygiene conditions in accordance with Chapter V of Annex I.
2. In addition to paragraph 1, in the case of parts of carcasses or boned meat, shall be obtained in conditions similar to those provided for in Article 3(B) of Directive 71/118/EEC, in establishments approved for this purpose in accordance with Article 13.

Article 10

Notwithstanding Articles 6(1), 7 and 8(1)(c), the placing on the market of small game uneviscerated and/or unskinned or unplucked and of big game unskinned shall be authorized provided that it is handled and stored separately from fresh meat, poultry meat, rabbit meat and game meat eviscerated and skinned.

Article 11

1. The official veterinarian may be helped by assistants placed under his authority and responsibility
- (a) when carrying out the post mortem inspections referred to in Articles 6(1), 7, 8(1)(d) and 9(1)(d);
 - (b) in the supervision of cut meat referred to in Articles 6(1), 7, 8(2)(b) and (c) and 9(2);

(c) in the supervision of compliance with the requirements of Chapter V of Annex I and Chapter V of Annex II.

2. Detailed rules governing this assistance shall, insofar as necessary, be determined in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 21.

Article 12

Rabbit meat or game shall not be used for human consumption if:

- (a) found to have one of the faults listed in point 10(a) of Annex I and point 14 (a) of Annex II;
- (b) originating from animals to which substances likely to make the meat dangerous or harmful to human health have been administered and on which the Scientific Veterinary Committee has expressed its opinion;
- (c) treated with ionizing or ultraviolet radiations or treated with tenderizers or other substances which could affect the organoleptic properties of the meat or colourants other than those used for health marking.

Article 13

1. Each Member State shall draw up a list of the establishments approved by it, each establishment having a veterinary approval number. Member States may approve for slaughtering and cutting of rabbit and game establishments approved according to Directive 71/118/EEC or Directive 64/433/EEC, provided that those establishments are equipped for processing of rabbit meat and/or game meat and that those operations are performed in a way assuring the respect of the hygiene rules. Member States shall send this list to the other Member States and to the Commission.
2. A Member State shall not approve an establishment unless compliance with this Regulation is assured. Member States shall withdraw approval if the conditions for approval cease to be fulfilled.

3. If a check has been made in accordance with Article 14 the Member State concerned shall take account of the conclusions resulting therefrom. The other Member States and the Commission shall be informed of the withdrawal of approval.
4. Inspection and supervision of approved establishments shall be carried out under the responsibility of the official veterinarian who may be assisted in purely material tasks by staff specially trained for the purpose. The official veterinarian must at all times have free access to all parts of establishments in order to ensure that this Regulation is being complied with.

The detailed rules governing this assistance shall be determined in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 21.

Article 14

Veterinary experts from the Commission may, in so far as it is necessary to ensure uniform application of this Regulation, make on-the-spot checks; they may in particular verify whether approved establishments are actually complying with this Regulation. The Commission shall inform the Member States of the results of the investigations.

A Member State in whose territory a check is being carried out shall give all the necessary assistance to the experts carrying out their duties.

The general provisions for implementing this Article shall be determined in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 21.

Article 15

1. The rules laid down in Council Regulation (EEC) No concerning veterinary checks in intra-Community trade in view of the completing of the internal market (1), shall apply, in particular with respect to the organization of and the action to be taken following the checks carried out by the country of destination, and the safeguard measures to be applied in relation to health problems affecting production and distribution in the territory of the Community of rabbit meat and game meat.

(1)

Article 16

1. Articles 6(1) and 7 shall not apply to farmed game meat obtained by the farmer for his personal consumption or given directly without compensation to the final consumer.
2. Article 8 shall not apply to wild game meat utilized by the hunter for his personal consumption or given directly without compensation to the final consumer.
3. Article 9 shall not apply to rabbit meat obtained by the farmer for his personal consumption or given directly without compensation to the final consumer.

Article 17

1. Member States may grant exceptions:
 - (a) to Articles 6(1) and 7 for farmed game meat sold directly in small quantities by the producer to the final consumer, provided that such transactions are performed in the same area in which the farm of production is located and that their establishments and sale points are regularly checked by the official service.
 - (b) to Article 8(1) and (2) points (b) and (c) for wild game meat sold in small quantities in sale points regularly checked by the official service or sold in small quantities directly by the hunter to the final consumer.
 - (c) to Article 9 for rabbit meat sold directly in small quantities by the producer to the final consumer, provided that such transactions are performed in the same area in which the farm of production is located and that their establishments and sale points are regularly checked by the official service.
2. In the cases referred to in paragraph 1, the meat shall be identified with a mark, allowing the identification of the producer or, in case of wild game, the hunter or the area of hunting.

CHAPTER III
FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 18

This Regulation shall apply without prejudice to Community rules adopted in order to protect wildlife.

Article 19

The Annexes to this Regulation shall be amended by the Commission in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 21 in order in particular to bring it into line with technological progress.

Article 20

Until the implementation of Community rules concerning import of game meat and rabbit meat from third countries, Member States apply to those import conditions at least equivalent to those laid down in this Regulation.

Article 21

1. The Commission shall be assisted by the Standing Veterinary Committee, set up by Council Decision 68/361/EEC (1), hereinafter referred to as the "Committee".
2. Where the procedure laid down in this Article is to be followed, the provisions set out below shall apply.
3. The representative of the Commission shall submit to the Committee a draft of the measures to be taken. The Committee shall deliver its opinion on the draft within a time limit which the Chairman may lay down according to the urgency of the matter. The opinion shall be delivered by the majority laid down in Article 148(2) of the Treaty in the case of decisions which the Council is required to adopt on a proposal from the Commission. The votes of the representatives of the Member States within the Committee shall be weighted in the manner set out in that Article. The Chairman shall not vote.

(1) OJ No L 255, 18.10.1968, p. 23.

4. The Commission shall adopt the measures envisaged if they are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee.
5. If the measures envisaged are not in accordance with the opinion of the Committee, or if no opinion is delivered, the Commission shall, without delay, submit to the Council a proposal relating to the measures to be taken. The Council shall act by a qualified majority.

If, on the expiry of a period of three months from the date of referral to the Council, the Council has not acted, the proposed measures shall be adopted by the Commission.

Article 22

This Regulation shall enter into force on 1 April 1990.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council

A N N E X I

PUBLIC HEALTH RULES FOR RABBITS

CHAPTER I

"ANTE-MORTEM" HEALTH INSPECTION OF RABBITS

1. Animals must undergo ante-mortem inspection before the beginning of daily slaughtering. The operator of the slaughterhouse or his agent must facilitate operations for performing ante-mortem health inspections and in particular any handling which is considered necessary.

Each lot of animals sent for slaughter must be identified in order to allow the competent authority to determine its origin.

2. Ante-mortem inspection may be restricted to detecting injuries received in transport if the rabbits have been inspected at the farm of origin within the last 24 hours and found to be healthy. In addition, the identity of the lot must be proved on arrival at the slaughterhouse.

If the ante-mortem inspection at the farm of origin and at the slaughterhouse is not carried out by the same official veterinarian, a health certificate signed by an official veterinarian, stating that the animals have been visited and found fit for slaughtering must accompany the animals.

3. The ante-mortem inspection must be carried out by the official veterinarian in accordance with professional rules under suitable lighting.
4. The inspection must determine:
 - (a) whether the animals are suffering from a disease which can be transmitted to humans or animals, whether they show symptoms or whether their general condition is such as to indicate that the disease may occur;

- (b) whether they show symptoms of a disease or of a disorder affecting its general conditions which may make the meat unfit for human consumption.
5. Animals may not be slaughtered for human consumption where it is established that they suffer from the conditions referred at point 4.
6. The animals referred to at point 4 must be killed separately or after slaughter of all other rabbit and their meat disposed in a hygienic way.

CHAPTER II

POST-MORTEM HEALTH INSPECTION OF RABBITS

7. Slaughtered rabbits must be inspected immediately after slaughter.
8. The post-mortem inspection must be carried out under suitable lighting.
9. The post-mortem health inspection must include:
- (a) visual inspection of the slaughtered animal,
 - (b) where necessary, palpation and incision,
 - (c) investigations of anomalies of consistency, colour, smell and, where appropriate, taste,
 - (d) where necessary, laboratory tests.
10. (a) Rabbit shall be declared totally unfit for human consumption where the "post mortem" inspection reveals the following:
- diseases transmissible to man or animals;
 - malignant or multiple tumours; multiple abscesses;
 - extensive parasite infestation in the subcutaneous or muscle tissues;
 - presence of residues of forbidden substances or in excess of admitted levels;
 - poisoning;
 - extensive injuries or extensive bloody or serous imbibition;
 - anomalies as regards colour, smell or taste;
 - anomalies as regards consistency, particularly oedema or severe emaciation.

- (b) Parts of slaughtered animals which show localized lesions or contaminations not affecting the health of the rest of the meat shall be declared unfit for human consumption.
- (c) The results of the "ante-mortem" and "post-mortem" health inspections shall be recorded by the official veterinarian and, where diseases transmissible to humans or animals referred to in Article 4 or where the presence of residues are found, these shall be communicated to the official service authorities responsible for supervision of the herd from which the animals originated, as well as to the person responsible for the herd in question.

CHAPTER III
HEALTH MARKING

11. The health marking must be made under the responsibility of the official veterinarian, who shall keep and maintain for that purpose:

- (a) instruments for marking the health marking on meat, to be handed over to the assistant staff only at the actual time of marking and for the length of time necessary for this purpose;
- (b) labels and wrappers where these already bear one of the marks or of the seals referred to in No 12. These labels, wrappers and seals shall be handed over in the required number to the assistant staff at the time when they must be used.

12.1. The health marking shall consist of the following:

- (a) - on the upper part, the first letters in latin script (in capitals) of the name of the exporting country i.e. B, DK, D, EL, ESP, F, IRL, I, L, NL, P, UK,
 - in the centre, the veterinary approval number of the slaughterhouse or, where appropriate, the cutting premises,

- on the lower part, one of the following sets of initials: CEE, EEG, EWG, EOF, EEC or EOK,
 - the letters and figures must be 0.2cm high
 - or
 - (b) - an oval 6.5 x 4.5 cm containing the information listed in (a); the letters must be 0.8 cm high and the figures 1.1 cm high.
2. The material used for marking must meet all hygiene requirements and the information referred to in point 1 shall appear on it in perfectly legible form.
3. (a) The health marking referred to in point 1(a) must be made:
- on unwrapped carcasses by means of a seal containing the information listed in point 1(a);
 - on or visibly beneath wrappers or other packaging of packed carcasses;
 - on or visibly beneath wrappers or other packaging of parts of carcasses or offal packed in small quantities.
- (b) The health marking referred to in point 1(b) must be made on large packaging.
4. Where a health marking appears on the wrapper or packaging in accordance with point 3;
- it must be applied in such a way that it is destroyed when the wrapper or packaging is opened, or
 - the wrapper or packaging must be sealed in such a way that it cannot be re-used after opening.

CHAPTER IV

STORAGE

13. After post-mortem inspection rabbit meat must be chilled or frozen and kept at a temperature which may not at any time exceed +4°C if chilled and -12°C if frozen.

CHAPTER V

TRANSPORT

14. The rabbit meat must be dispatched in such a way that during transport it is protected from anything liable to contaminate it or to affect it unfavourably, having regard to the duration and conditions of transport and to the means of transport employed. In particular, vehicles used for this transport must be equipped in such a way as to ensure that the temperatures laid down at point 13 are not exceeded.

A N N E X I I

PUBLIC HEALTH RULES FOR WILD GAME

CHAPTER I

HEALTH AND HYGIENE RULES TO BE RESPECTED

DURING KILLING AND TRANSPORT TO GAME PROCESSING HOUSE OF WILD GAME

1. Wild game should be killed according to the rules approved by the official service for the protection of animal health, of public health, of the environment and the wildlife.

2. Hunters
noting any unusual conditions observed during hunting, evisceration and bleeding of the animal, should report to the veterinary inspector any such anomalies, if necessary in writing.

3. Game carcasses must be bled and the abdominal viscera removed in a hygienic way, as soon as possible after shooting. However, with the consent of the official service, carcasses of small game may be conveyed as soon as possible to the game processing house without having had the abdominal viscera removed or having been bled.

4. Taking into account the environmental conditions the official service may prescribe that the removal of the abdominal viscera is performed in larder easy to clean and disinfect.

5. The correlation between carcasses and offal referred to in point 12 must be ensured until the veterinary inspection.

6. Game carcasses must be hygienically transported to the game processing house, where necessary, in refrigerated trucks.

7. The temperature of the game carcasses must be reduced to 4°C for small game or +7° for big game as soon as possible. The official service, taking into account the environmental situation, may require that the carcasses are put in refrigerated rooms within a period of 12 hours after killing, in order to avoid spoilage.
8. Game carcasses should be presented for inspection no later than 24 hours after the killing. However, the official service may decide that a supplementary period is allowed if the conditions of handling, chilling and transport are such that the game carcasses will not deteriorate on account of the further time allowed.

CHAPTER II

VETERINARY HEALTH INSPECTION OF WILD GAME MEAT

9. All game carcasses must be inspected by an official veterinarian to ensure that it does not show lesions due to diseases transmissible to humans or animals.
10. The official veterinarian must ensure that inspection is carried out under efficient and hygienic conditions.
11. The official veterinarian must note and take into account observations referred to at point 2 which have been made during hunting, evisceration and bleeding of the game carcasses, which have been reported by the hunter, and the health situation of the hunting area, according to Articles 3, 4 and 5.
12. The official veterinarian must examine the game carcasses, the trachea and lungs, the heart, the liver, the kidneys and the spleen.

For small game uneviscerated, taking into account the environmental health situation of the hunting area from which the animals originate, the health inspection can be performed on a sample established by the official service.

13. In the course of the examination, the inspector must pay particular attention to:

- (a) signs consistent with natural death, death by trapping or of a disease state at the time of death;
- (b) indication of decomposition;
- (c) signs of disease transmissible to man or animals;
- (d) presence of parasites, particularly in the subcutaneans or muscular tissues.

Carcases of wild pigs in particular must undergo an investigation for trichinosis under the supervision and the responsibility of the official veterinarian. This investigation must be carried out in accordance with one of the digestion methods indicated for pig meat in Directive 77/96/EEC;

- (e) investigation of anomalies in consistency, colour, smell and, where appropriate, taste;
- (f) presence of visible contamination.

When it is necessary for the purpose of the health inspection, the official veterinarian may require the skinning and cutting of the game carcasses.

14. (a) A wild game meat shall be declared totally unfit for human consumption where the health inspection reveals the following:
- diseases transmissible to humans or animals;
 - malignant or multiple tumours; multiple abscesses;
 - extensive parasite infestation in the subcutaneous or muscle tissues;
 - presence of residue of forbidden substances or in excess of the admitted levels;
 - poisoning;
 - signs consistent with natural death, death by trapping or of a disease stated at the time of death;
 - extensive injuries or extensive bloody or serous imbibition;
 - decomposition processes, such as heating, particularly after delayed discovery or evisceration;
 - distinct anomalies as regards colour, smell, taste;
 - distinct anomalies as regards consistency, particularly oedema or severe emaciation;
 - soiling which cannot be removed even by thorough cleaning.

- (b) Parts of game carcasses which show localized lesions or contaminations not affecting the health of the rest of the meat shall be declared unfit for human consumption.
- (c) The results of the health inspections shall be recorded by the official veterinarian and, where diseases transmissible to humans or animals referred to in Article 3 or the presence of residues are found, communicated to the official service authorities responsible for supervision of the hunting area from which the animals originated, as well, if appropriate, to the person responsible for this hunting area.

CHAPTER III

GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR THE APPROVAL OF GAME PROCESSING HOUSES

15. Beyond the general conditions for the approval of establishments, referred to in Annex I of Directive 64/433/EEC, the approved game processing houses must have at least:
- (a) chilling or refrigerating rooms large enough, for receiving and holding small game carcasses at a temperature of +4°C and big game carcasses at a temperature of +7°C, pending inspection and prior to processing;
 - (b) working rooms for completing evisceration and skinning or feathering of game carcass with sufficient separation between the clean and dirty parts. These rooms must be equipped with adequate facilities for the veterinary health inspection referred to in Chapter II of this Annex;
 - (c) a separate cutting room, if the cutting is performed in the establishment;
 - (d) a room for wrapping and packaging, if such operations are performed in the establishment unless the conditions provided for in point 62 of Chapter XI of Annex I to Directive 64/433/EEC are fulfilled;

- (e) equipment enabling hygienic handling of the game carcasses;
- (f) a room or rooms suitably equipped for carrying out an examination for trichinella where such a test is carried out in the establishment.

CHAPTER IV

HEALTH MARKING FOR WILD GAME

16. Health marking must be carried out under the responsibility of the official veterinarian. For this purpose, he shall keep and maintain:
- (a) the instruments intended for game meat health marking which he may hand over to assistants only at the time of marking and for the length of time required for this purpose;
 - (b) the labels and wrapping material when marked as provided for in this chapter. The labels and wrapping material shall be given to the assistants at the time when they are to be used and in the required number.
17. The health mark must be either:
- (a) an oval mark at least 6.5 cm wide by 4.5 cm high bearing the following information in perfectly legible characters:
 - on the upper part, the initials of the country in the territory of which the establishment is located (i.e. one of the following: B, DK, D, EL, ESP, F, IRL, I, L, NL, P, UK);
 - followed by the veterinary approval number of the establishment and the letter G,
 - or;

(b) an oval mark at least 6.5 cm wide by 4.5 cm high bearing the following information in perfectly legible characters:

- on the upper part, the name of the country in the territory of which the establishment is located;
- in the centre, the veterinary approval number of the establishment and the letter G, and
- on the lower part, one of the following sets of initials: CEE, EEG, EWG, EOF, EEC or EOK.

The letters must be at least 0.8 cm high and the figures at least 1,1 cm high.

The health mark may, in addition, include an indication of the official veterinarian who carried out the health inspection of the meat, or;

(c) a seal large enough for the following information to appear in perfectly legible characters:

- on the upper part, the initials of the country in the territory of which the establishments is located (i.e. one of the following B, DK, D, EL, ESP, F, IRL, I, L, NL, P, UK) followed by the veterinary approval number of the establishment and the letter "G";
- on the lower part, one of the following sets of initials: CEE, EEG, EWG, EOF, EEC or EOK;
- the letters and figures must be at least 0.2 cm high.

18. Carcasses of big game must be stamped in ink or hot branded with the health mark referred to in point 17(a) or (b) at least in four places, on the shoulders and on the external surface of the thighs or marked with the seal referred to in point 17(c).

Carcasses of small game must be marked with the health mark referred to in point 17(c).

19. Cuts of game meat or carcasses of small game wrapped must be marked with the health mark referred to in point 17(a) or (b) apposed on the wrapping and the packaging.

Game meat wrapped in small portions must be marked with the health mark referred to in point 17(c) apposed on the wrapping.

CHAPTER V

STORAGE

20. After inspection big game meat must be chilled or frozen and kept at a temperature which may not at any time exceed +7°C if chilled and -12°C if frozen.

21. After inspection small game meat must be chilled or frozen and kept at a temperature which may not at any time exceed +4°C if chilled and -12°C if frozen.

CHAPTER VI

TRANSPORT

22. Game meat must be dispatched in such a way that during transport it is protected from anything liable to contaminate it or to affect it unfavourably, having regard to the duration and conditions of transport and to the means of transport employed. In particular, vehicles used to transport game meat must be equipped in such a way as to ensure that the temperatures laid down at points 20 and 21 are not exceeded.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

concerning:

Draft Council Regulation affecting game meat and rabbit meat

1. Budget heading:	Item:	Title:
III B	382	Inspection in Agriculture

2. Legal basis:
Article 43 of the Treaty

3. Classification: ~~REGULATORY EXPENDITURE~~ Non-compulsory expenditure

4. Purpose/description of the measure:
Verification of the implementation of the Regulation (Article 14)

5. Method of calculation

5.1 Form of expenditure: Mission expenses

5.2 Community contribution: 100%

5.3 Calculation: 200 days of mission per year at 170 ECU per day
(actual cost of inspections)
= 34 000 ECU per year

6. Financial implication as regards operating appropriations

6.1 Schedule of appropriations (m ECU)

<u>Year</u>	
1991	0,034
1992	0,034
1993	0,034
1994	0,034
1995	0,034
following years	
Total	<u>0,170</u>

6.2 Financing during current year: None

7. Observations:

For the implementation of this regulation in addition
2 supplementary posts A7/6 are necessary

COM(89) 496 final

DOCUMENTS

EN

03

Catalogue number : CB-CO-89-502-EN-C

ISBN 92-77-54367-1

Office for Official Publications of the European Communities
L-2985 Luxembourg