WRITTEN QUESTION P-3467/00
by Robert Sturdy (PPE-DE) to the Commission
(30 October 2000)

Subject: Legal levels of swine fever compensation

The Eastern Region of the United Kingdom is currently suffering a prolonged bout of Classical Swine Fever (CSF). Pig producers with unaffected holdings within a certain range of an affected holding are in what is known as an exclusion zone and are unable to market their pigs. When these stationary animals become too large, they must be slaughtered on animal welfare grounds, with compensation available for producers forced to take such action.

Can the Commission verify the statement made by a Commission official, Joachim Heine, to Robert Sturdy, MEP, that the Commission could approve any UK proposal to compensate producers for an amount up to the market value of each pig slaughtered on animal welfare grounds within the exclusion zone?

Answer given by Mr Fischler on behalf of the Commission
(1 December 2000)

For the kind of measure addressed by the Honourable Member, state aid has to be assessed under section 11.4 of the Community guidelines for state aid in the agriculture sector (1). This section lays down the conditions for an aid for combating animal and plant health diseases to be compatible with these guidelines and with Article 87(3)(c) (ex Article 92) of the EC Treaty. According to these rules, and subject to all other requirements being fulfilled, compensation may be granted up to the normal value of animals slaughtered. Overcompensation of the losses should, however, be excluded.

On 18 October 2000, the Commission approved the United Kingdom Pig Welfare (Disposal) Scheme (state aid NN 95/2000). It appeared from the analysis of the notification submitted by the British authorities that the aid scheme fulfilled all the conditions described above and that it could benefit from the derogation provided in Article 87(3)(c) of the EC Treaty. As far as the compensation for the value of pigs slaughtered on animal welfare grounds within the exclusion zone is concerned, the Commission authorized flat rate compensations for pig producers of GBP 10 per pig for pigs in batches averaging 45 kilogram (kg) or less (liveweight), of GBP 30 per pig for pigs averaging between 46 kg and 100 kg per batch, and of GBP 50 per pig in batches averaging over 100 kg per batch. These are the rates for which the British authorities had sought approval.


WRITTEN QUESTION P-3468/00
by Daniel Varela Suanzes-Carpegna (PPE-DE) to the Commission
(30 October 2000)

Subject: European shipbuilding industry

The European Shipbuilders' Association has lodged a formal complaint with the Commission against the subsidies and unfair competition employed by South Korea in the shipbuilding industry.

Will the Commission say whether this complaint meets the requirements needed for it to be able to take action against South Korea at the World Trade Organisation (WTO)?
If so, will the Commission say when it will take a decision on the complaint and take action at the WTO accordingly with a view to penalising and doing away with South Korean subsidies and dumping, so as to protect the legitimate interests of the European shipbuilding industry?

Will it explain the various stages involved in the proceedings at the WTO?

**Answer given by Mr Lamy on behalf of the Commission**

*(22 November 2000)*

On 24 October 2000, the committee of European Union shipbuilders associations (CESA) lodged a complaint under the trade barrier regulation (TBR) Council Regulation (EC) No 356/95 of 20 February 1995 amending Regulation (EC) No 3286/94 laying down Community procedures in the field of the common commercial policy in order to ensure the exercise of the Community's rights under international trade rules, in particular those established under the auspices of the World Trade Organization (WTO) *(1)* in order to eliminate certain trade practices caused by the subsidisation of commercial shipbuilding in Korea and which adversely affect Community sales of commercial vessels. The issue raised in the complaint has been for years an unresolved problem in the bilateral relations between the Community and Korea.

The Commission has from then 45 days to decide on the initiation of a Community examination procedure and to publish accordingly a notice in the Official journal. The examination procedure may take five months, and in the light of the conclusions of the investigation, the Commission may decide to resort to WTO dispute settlement. In such a case, the Community will first require to enter into consultations with Korea in order to find a satisfactory solution. If after 60 days from the request for consultations, there is no settlement, the Community may request the establishment of a panel.


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**WRITTEN QUESTION E-3472/00**

by John Bowis (PPE-DE) to the Commission

*(8 November 2000)*

**Subject:** Health Observatory monitoring

What monitoring is the Health Observatory planning to carry out on epilepsy, Parkinson's disease and other neurological conditions?

**Answer given by Mr Byrne on behalf of the Commission**

*(14 December 2000)*

The present action programme on health monitoring and the future action programme on public health aim at developing and making available adequate, reliable and comparable data sets and indicators of public health in order to report on the health status within the Community. The Commission foresees that neurological conditions will be part of the European health monitoring system when this system is put in place.

A project entitled 'Monitoring neurological diseases in Europe' has already been completed and the Commission will provide the Honourable Member and Parliament's Secretariat with a copy of this report.