For the reasons explained above, the Commission must refer the Honourable Member to the respective Member States for obtaining information about their proposed contribution to the Natura 2000 network.


---

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1104/01
by Nicholas Clegg (ELDR) to the Commission
(28 March 2001)

Subject: Foot-and-mouth disease

When was the European Commission first informed by the British Government, either formally or informally, of the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Britain?

Answer given by Mr Byrne on behalf of the Commission
(2 May 2001)

Information on the first two outbreaks of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in Great Britain was provided by telephone by the Chief Veterinary Officer of the United Kingdom, to the Head of the competent Unit of the Directorate General for Health and Consumer Protection of the Commission, on 20 February 2001 at about 21h15 (Brussels time) i.e. a few hours after the laboratory confirmation of disease.

About one hour later, after an exchange of views between the relevant Commission’s officials on the most urgent actions to be taken, all Chief Veterinary Officers of the Member States were informed by the Commission via fax.

On 21 February 2001, in collaboration with the United Kingdom, the Commission formally adopted Decision 2001/145/EC of 21 February 2001 concerning certain protection measures with regard to foot-and-mouth disease in the United Kingdom (1) as a safeguard measure, to forbid the dispatch from the United Kingdom of the animals and animal products, which may potentially spread foot-and-mouth disease virus.


---

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1105/01
by Robert Goodwill (PPE-DE) to the Commission
(28 March 2001)

Subject: European Public Prosecutor

Recent Commission communications and European Parliament reports have called for the establishment of a European Public Prosecutor’s Office for the protection of the Community’s financial interests.

If such an office were to be established, can the Commission clearly state that it will never attempt to extend the Prosecutor’s powers beyond the sole protection of the Community’s financial interests?

Answer given by Ms Schreyer on behalf of the Commission
(2 May 2001)

The Commission would refer the Honourable Member to its opinion of January 2000 and communication of September 2000, in which it has undertaken to protect the Community’s financial interests (1).