

APPENDIX

to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee

Defeated amendments

The following amendments, tabled in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, were rejected by the Committee during plenary session discussions :

Point 1.7

At the end of point 1.7 add :

'The Committee would emphasize the importance of ensuring that control is effective. Inspection should be concentrated on those products most under suspicion, notably groundnuts and cottonseed, and should take place where possible at the port of entry. Sampling should be sufficiently thorough to allow for the fact that aflatoxin occurs in pockets. It will also be necessary to ensure that there is adequate laboratory capacity for the somewhat sophisticated test required.'

Voting

For : 37, Against : 62, Abstentions : 7.

After point 1.8, add the following new paragraph :

'1.9. The Committee points out that paradoxically there is as yet no corresponding Directive stipulating maximum permitted levels for harmful substances and products in food for human consumption. The Committee calls on the Commission to draft a proposal to remedy this shortcoming in order to improve consumer protection and to facilitate the free movement of food products.'

Voting

For : 15, Against : 54, Abstentions : 30.

Opinion on the proposal for a Council Directive on public health and animal health problems affecting the importation of meat products from third countries⁽¹⁾

(85/C 87/03)

On 22 October 1984 the Council, acting under the optional consultation clause of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, decided to ask the Economic and Social Committee for an opinion on the abovementioned proposal.

The Section for Agriculture, which was responsible for preparing the Committee's work on the subject, adopted its opinion on 10 January 1985 in the light of the oral report by Mr Wick.

At its 223rd plenary session (meeting of 30 January 1985) the Economic and Social Committee adopted the following opinion with no votes against and two abstentions :

1. General comments

- (a) introduce any exotic infectious animal disease into the Community ;
- (b) endanger public health.

1.1. The Committee welcomes the Commission's submission of a specific Directive designed to ensure that imports of meat products from non-EC countries do not

The draft Directive thus complements the existing Directives covering intra-Community trade in meat products and the corresponding rules for the importation of cattle, pigs and fresh meat from non-EC countries.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 286, 25. 10. 1984, p. 5.

1.2. The Committee notes that the draft Directive has been closely modelled on Directive 72/462/EEC on health and veterinary inspection problems upon importation of bovine animals and swine and fresh meat from third countries. The Committee would refer to its earlier opinions on the matter.

1.3. The Committee points out that the references in the recitals to the latest amending Directives are incomplete. The Committee expects these references to be supplemented accordingly.

2. Specific comments

2.1. *Fourth recital*

The Committee points out that the animal health situation in some non-EC countries or parts of non-EC countries precludes them from exporting fresh meat to the EC.

The Committee notes that, until such time as the abovementioned countries have introduced animal health measures which meet current EC requirements, the only way to exclude certain contagious diseases from the Community will be to limit imports to heat-sterilized processed meat.

The Committee calls upon the Commission to spare no effort in ensuring that the measures applying to the

abovementioned countries or regions are complied with.

2.2. *Article 1 (1)*

The Committee is concerned that the draft Directive does not cover the importation of meat products prepared wholly or partly from meat products containing poultrymeat. Continuation of the current situation as regards the protection of EC consumers and livestock against introduced contagious diseases constitutes a serious shortcoming which must, in the Committee's view, be rectified as a matter of urgency.

2.3. *Article 9 (5c)*

The Committee welcomes the fact that assistants are to have a separate status making them independent of those in charge of the establishments. The Committee assumes that this rule will be taken into account when establishments are being licensed and inspected.

2.4. *Article 9 (5d)*

In the Committee's view, it is essential to ensure that only the official veterinarian shall be empowered to take a decision concerning the final result of meat inspections. It therefore proposes that a rider to that effect be added to Article 9 (5d).

Done at Brussels, 30 January 1985.

*The Chairman
of the Economic and Social Committee*

Gerd MUHR