

**Opinion on:**

- the proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 80/217/EEC introducing Community measures for the control of classical swine fever,
- the proposal for a Council Decision amending Directive 80/1095/EEC and Decision 80/1096/EEC as regards certain measures relating to classical swine fever,
- the proposal for a Council Directive amending Directives 64/432/EEC, 72/461/EEC and 80/215/EEC as regards certain measures relating to classical swine fever, and
- the proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 72/462/EEC on health and veterinary inspection problems upon importation of bovine animals and swine and fresh meat or meat products from third countries<sup>(1)</sup>

(92/C 40/20)

On 2 September 1991 the Council of the European Communities decided to consult the Economic and Social Committee, under Article 198 of the EEC Treaty, on the abovementioned proposals.

The Economic and Social Committee decided to appoint Mr Erik Hovgaard Jakobsen as Rapporteur-General, with the task of preparing its work on the subject.

At its 291st plenary session (meeting of 28 November 1991), the Economic and Social Committee adopted the following Opinion unanimously.

**1. General comments**

1.1. Subject to the following comments, the Economic and Social Committee endorses the above proposals as a logical adjustment of veterinary legislation to the Single Market:

- The proposed control and eradication measures are appropriate, provided that they are fully implemented and observed.
- For this area, Regulations (rather than Directives) would be an appropriate solution in future.
- In view of the success of previous classical swine fever eradication and control programmes, they must be pursued and endowed with the appropriate resources. The Committee would like the Commission and the Standing Veterinary Committee to examine the causes of the flare-up in the number of cases in two Member States in 1990, despite already existing measures.
- Feral pigs and wild boar, along with use of undisinfected swill for pigfood, are particular hazards which must be curbed.
- For both EC consumers and trade with non-EC countries, it is important to ensure that EC veterinary regulations are constantly improved.

- The 1 January 1992 deadline is unrealistic.

**2. Specific comments (amendment to Directive 80/217/EEC regarding the control of classical swine fever)**

- 2.1. Article 2(d): The term 'undue' must be clarified. Pigs should not normally be kept at a slaughterhouse for more than eight hours before slaughter.
- 2.2. New Article 6(a)(1): In the event of an outbreak the prescribed control and eradication measures must be implemented immediately—by the competent local authorities—without waiting for Commission approval of the eradication plan [*cf.* Art. 6(a)(3)].
- 2.3. New Article 6(a)(2)(d): The disinfection methods and procedures should be determined by the competent veterinary authority.
- 2.4. New Article 6(a)(5)(a) first indent (geographical distribution): add 'spread and frequency'.
- 2.5. New Article 6(a)(5)(e): hunting licences: Amend to read: 'increased hunting and the issue of the requisite licences'.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 226, 31. 8. 1991, p. 6, 19, 20.

2.6. Article 8(2): Reference should be made to the existing rules which require infected pigs to be transported in closed, sealed vehicles.

2.7. Article 9(4)(a): The deadline should be tightened up. Amend to read: 'These holdings shall be visited by a veterinary official as soon as possible, within seven days at the latest.'

2.8. Article 9(4)(f)(i): It must be clearly stated who is responsible for the prescribed inspections, e.g. the competent veterinary authority.

2.9. Article 14: Add the following:

'Breeding animals for export should preferably be vaccinated in the country of purchase. The Standing Veterinary Committee may however grant dispensations in special cases.'

2.10. Article 14(1)(b): The laboratories indicated must be approved by the veterinary authorities.

3. **Specific comments** (amendment to Directive 72/462/EEC)

3.1. **New Article 6(6):** Why are the requirements in respect of meat and pigs from non-EC countries more lenient? Non-EC imports should be subject to the same rules as EC products.

Done at Brussels, 28 November 1991.

*The Chairman  
of the Economic and Social Committee*

François STAEDLIN

### Opinion on the proposal for a Council Recommendation on Child care<sup>(1)</sup>

(92/C 40/21)

On 10 September 1991 the Council decided to consult the Economic and Social Committee, under Article 198 of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, on the abovementioned proposal.

The Section for Social, Family, Educational and Cultural Affairs, which was responsible for preparing the Committee's work on the subject, adopted its Opinion on 14 November 1991. The Rapporteur was Mrs Guillaume.

At its 291st plenary session (meeting of 28 November 1991) the Economic and Social Committee adopted the following Opinion by a majority vote with one abstention.

The Committee fully endorses the Recommendation on Childcare as a means of increasing equality of opportunity between women and men in employment.

#### 1. General comments

1.1. The Committee believes that the adequate provision of good quality childcare is an essential prerequi-

site for achieving greater equality of opportunity between women and men in employment. 'Good quality childcare' must mean that which is conducive to the welfare and development of the child. Throughout the Member States women currently bear the principal responsibility for the care and upbringing of children, with serious long-term consequences for their position in the labour market relative to men, in terms of the likelihood of their being in employment, their occupational status and their lifetime earnings.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 242, 17. 9. 1991, p. 3.