

3.6 Although Directive 96/22/EC originally aimed to ban the use of oestradiol 17 β and its ester-like derivatives for all purposes, it ultimately did no more than limit the circumstances in which oestradiol 17 β may be administered for purposes other than growth promotion. This product is totally carcinogenic, as it can both cause and promote tumours.

3.7 The report presented to the Council and Parliament on 11 October 2005 concludes that because the use of alternative substances such as prostaglandins is widespread, use of oestradiol 17 β could be phased out for food-producing animals.

3.8 Pet animals affected by hyperthyroidism often suffer as a result of the ongoing unavailability of appropriate treatment.

4. Comments

4.1 The European Economic and Social Committee takes note of the measures proposed by the European Commission.

4.2 The changes proposed in relation to oestradiol 17 β are the direct result of the activities required by Article 11(a) of Directive 2003/74/EC.

4.3 The changes made are extremely limited and are needed to prevent the further suffering of pet animals as a result of no appropriate treatment being available.

4.4 This proposal is relevant to pet owners, practicing veterinarians, the veterinary pharmaceutical industry and Member State authorisation agencies.

4.5 The proposal will help to ensure a high level of protection of human health.

4.6 New authorisations must, however, consider potential misuse and products that are likely to be misused could, therefore, be rejected.

Brussels, 26 September 2007

The President
of the European Economic and Social Committee
Dimitris DIMITRIADIS

Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee on the 'Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 1924/2006 on nutrition and health claims made on foods'

COM(2007) 368 final — 2007/0128 (COD)

(2008/C 10/16)

On 26 July 2007 the Council decided to consult the European Economic and Social Committee, under Article 95 of the Treaty establishing the European Community, on the abovementioned proposal.

Since the Committee unreservedly endorses the contents of the proposal and has already set out its views on the subject in its earlier opinions CESE 308/2004 and CESE 1571/2006, adopted on 26 February 2004 and 13 December 2006 (*), it decided, at its 438th plenary session of 26 and 27 September 2007, by 163 votes to 1 with 7 abstentions, to issue an opinion endorsing the proposal and to refer to the position it had taken in the above-mentioned documents.

Brussels, 26 September 2007.

The President
of the European Economic and Social Committee
Dimitris DIMITRIADIS

(*) EESC opinions on the *Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on nutrition and health claims made on foods* — COM(2003) 424 final — 2003/0165 COD (OJ C 110 of 30.4.2004) and on the *Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No .../... on nutrition and health claims made on foods* — COM(2006) 607 final — 2006/0195 COD (OJ C 325 of 30.12.2006).