

Answer given by Mrs Bjerregaard on behalf of the Commission

(18 December 1997)

It is the responsibility of the Member States to ensure that the provisions of Directive 86/609/EEC concerning the protection of animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes ⁽¹⁾ are adhered to in their territory. An exemption to use non-purpose bred animals can be obtained 'under arrangements determined by the authority' (Article 19(4) of the Directive) and it is at the discretion of the Member States that the applicant sufficiently justifies that 'other animals would not suffice for the aims of the experiment' (Article 7(3)).

The responsibility of the Commission is to examine that the Directive has been correctly transposed and applied by the Member States. With regard to the provisions relating to the use of non-purpose bred animals, defined in Articles 7(3), 19(4) and 21, the Commission has opened four infringement proceedings which partly cover either one or more of the above mentioned Articles. Only one of these relates to a wrong application, the others concern technical aspects of the implementation in national legislation.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 358, 18.12.1986.

(98/C 187/61)

**WRITTEN QUESTION E-3642/97
by Clive Needle (PSE) to the Commission**

(13 November 1997)

Subject: The rise in the incidence of tuberculosis

The World Health Organization has just published a worrying and unprecedented report on the rise in the incidence of tuberculosis. This specifies a number of developing countries plus Latvia, Estonia and the Russian Federation as 'hot spots' where tuberculosis is resistant to antibiotics and treatment is described as 'therapeutic anarchy'.

Clearly this has implications for several aspects of EU policy and practice in the context of its public health competence as established in Article 129 of the Treaty on European Union.

Will the Commission therefore set out urgently its approach to tackling tuberculosis with particular reference to the potential applicants for EU membership, given concerns that public health is insufficiently addressed in the Agenda 2000 proposals?

(98/C 187/62)

**WRITTEN QUESTION E-3643/97
by Clive Needle (PSE) to the Commission**

(13 November 1997)

Subject: The rise in the incidence of tuberculosis

The World Health Organization has just published a worrying and unprecedented report on the rise in the incidence of tuberculosis. This specifies a number of developing countries plus Latvia, Estonia and the Russian Federation as 'hot spots' where tuberculosis is resistant to antibiotics and treatment is described as 'therapeutic anarchy'.

Clearly this has implications for several aspects of EU policy and practice in the context of its public health competence as established in Article 129 of the Treaty on European Union.

Will the Commission therefore set out urgently its approach to tackling tuberculosis with particular reference to assistance for health programmes in states receiving PHARE?