

(2002/C 93 E/120)

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2301/01
by Lord Inglewood (PPE-DE) to the Commission

(31 July 2001)

Subject: Foot-and-mouth disease recovery plan

If the UK Government made a request for a financial allocation for a recovery plan in areas affected by foot-and-mouth disease (for both agricultural and non-agricultural sectors), what financial parameters would the Commission work within?

Joint answer
to Written Questions E-2300/01 and E-2301/01
given by Mr Fischler on behalf of the Commission

(15 October 2001)

As the Commission indicated in response to the Honourable Member's Written Question E-1407/01 ⁽¹⁾, there is a degree of flexibility in the use of Community support under the respective Rural Development Plans which may be able to assist any recovery plans and, depending on the nature of the proposals, these may require Commission approval. However, the Commission has not received any proposals from the British authorities for financing its recovery plans for rural areas affected by foot-and-mouth disease.

If such proposals are submitted to the Commission, these will be examined on their merit prior to giving any response. There have been a number of proposals to modify existing state-aid schemes, partly in order to target resources on sectors most badly affected by foot-and-mouth. These are in the course of being approved.

For British Rural Development Plans, the Commission will work within the financial parameters established by Commission Decision 2000/426/EC of 26 June 2000 amending Decision 1999/659/EC fixing an indicative allocation by Member State of the allocations under the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) Guarantee Section for rural development measures for the period 2000 to 2006 ⁽²⁾ in which the annual allocation of EAGGF Guarantee resources for all Member States was determined.

The Commission is aware of decisions made by some of the Programme Monitoring Committees of the relevant British Objective 1 and 2 programmes to ensure a fast-track approval of projects in the worst-off areas and to ensure that adequate resources are made available to assist with the economic recovery in those areas.

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 364 E, 20.12.2001, p. 104.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 165, 6.7.2000.

(2002/C 93 E/121)

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2302/01
by Lord Inglewood (PPE-DE) to the Commission

(31 July 2001)

Subject: Foot-and-mouth disease recovery plan

Have any formal or informal approaches been made to the Commission by the UK Government aiming to establish a recovery plan in areas affected by foot-and-mouth disease in either the agricultural sector or the non-agricultural sector?

Answer given by Mr Fischler on behalf of the Commission

(8 October 2001)

On 3 April 2001, the Commission has approved the 'outgoers mark 2 scheme'. This scheme, with an envisaged budget of £ 5 million, helps pig producers hit by foot-and-mouth disease who wish to leave pig farming permanently to do so. This scheme also includes a restructuring element.