

COMMISSION DECISION

of 14 April 1992

concerning the animal health conditions and veterinary certification for the importation of meat products from Tunisia and amending Council Decision 79/542/EEC and Commission Decision 91/449/EEC

(92/245/EEC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Having regard to Council Directive 72/462/EEC of 12 December 1972 on animal health and veterinary inspection problems upon importation of bovine, ovine and caprine animals and swine, fresh meat or meat products from third countries⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No 3763/91⁽²⁾, and in particular Articles 21a and 22 thereof,

Whereas Council Decision 79/542/EEC⁽³⁾, as last amended by Commission Decision 92/162/EEC⁽⁴⁾, draws up a list of third countries from which the Member States authorize imports of bovine animals, swine and equidae, fresh meat and meat products; whereas this list was supplemented by Commission Decision 91/361/EEC⁽⁵⁾ by the addition, *inter alia*, of Tunisia for the purpose of allowing importation of meat products which have been treated in a hermetically sealed container to an F_0 value of three or more;

Whereas Commission Decision 91/449/EEC⁽⁶⁾, as last amended by Decision 91/244/EEC⁽⁷⁾, lays down the specimen animal health certificates in respect of meat products imported from third countries;

Whereas, following a Community veterinary mission, it appears that notwithstanding the animal health situation, Tunisia is covered by sufficiently well-structured and organized veterinary services; whereas the production of certain heat-treated meat products for export to the Community will be supervised by an official veterinarian appointed by the Department of Veterinary Services;

Whereas animal health conditions and veterinary certification must be adapted according to the animal health situation of the third country concerned;

Whereas the measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Veterinary Committee,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

1. Member States shall authorize the importation from Tunisia of meat products which have undergone:
 - either a treatment in a hermetically sealed container to an F_0 value of three or more,
 - or a heat treatment so that a centre temperature of at least 80 °C has been achieved.
2. Member States shall not authorize the importation from Tunisia of meat products other than those referred to in paragraph 1.

Article 2

1. Decision 79/542/EEC is amended as follows:
 - (a) in the Annex under the column headed 'special remarks' concerning meat products, the figure '(4)' is inserted in the line corresponding to Tunisia after the figure (3);
 - (b) at the end of the list of countries under the footnote heading 'Special remarks', the following last sentence is added:

'(4) Notwithstanding any restrictions indicated in the above list, meat products which have undergone a heat treatment so that a centre temperature of at least 80 °C has been achieved are authorized.'
2. In Part II of Annex C to Decision 91/449/EEC the list of countries approved to use the model animal health certificate is hereby amended by the insertion of the following country:

'Tunisia'.

Article 3

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 14 April 1992.

For the Commission

Ray MAC SHARRY

Member of the Commission

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 302, 31. 12. 1972, p. 28.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 356, 24. 12. 1991, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 146, 14. 6. 1979, p. 15.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ No L 71, 18. 3. 1992, p. 30.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ No L 195, 18. 7. 1991, p. 43.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ No L 240, 29. 8. 1991, p. 28.

⁽⁷⁾ See page 40 of this Official Journal.