

**Opinion on the**

- **proposal for a Council Directive relating to the date of entry into force of Directive 80/217/EEC introducing Community measures for the control of classical swine fever**
- **amendments to the proposal for a Council Regulation laying down conditions designed to render and keep the territory of the Community free from classical swine fever (amendments under the second paragraph of Article 149 of the Treaty)**
- **proposal for a Council Decision introducing Community financial measures for the control of classical swine fever**

The text referred to the Committee has been published in *Official Journal of the European Communities* No C 132 of 3 June 1980, pages 6 to 8.

**A. LEGAL BASIS FOR THE OPINION**

On 23 May 1980 the Council referred the abovementioned proposal to the Economic and Social Committee in accordance with Article 43 of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community.

**B. OPINION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

The Economic and Social Committee prepared its opinion on the above matter at its 181st plenary session held in Brussels on 24 and 25 September 1980.

The full text of the opinion is as follows:

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 43 thereof,

Having regard to the request made by the Council of the European Communities on 23 May 1980 for an opinion on the proposal for a Council Directive relating to the date of entry into force of Directive 80/217/EEC introducing Community measures for the control of classical swine fever, amendments to the proposal for a Council Regulation laying down conditions designed to render and keep the territory of the Community free from classical swine fever (amendments under the second paragraph of Article 149 of the Treaty), proposal for a Council Decision introducing Community financial measures for the control of classical swine fever,

Having regard to the Bureau's decision of 27 May 1980 instructing the Section for Agriculture to prepare the Committee's work on the matter,

Having regard to its earlier work on this subject, particularly its opinions of 22 May 1979 <sup>(1)</sup>, 21 November 1979 <sup>(2)</sup> and 2 July 1980 <sup>(3)</sup>,

Having regard to the report made by the rapporteur, Mr Wick,

Having regard to the discussions at its 181st plenary session, held on 24 and 25 September 1980 (meeting of 24 September 1980),

HAS ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING OPINION

with no votes against and two abstentions:

The Committee approves the Commission's proposals subject to the following comments.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 140, 5. 6. 1979.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ No C 72, 24. 3. 1980.

<sup>(3)</sup> OJ No C 230, 8. 9. 1980.

## 1. GENERAL COMMENTS

1.1. The Committee would reiterate that the aim of this programme is (a) to eradicate swine fever in those Member States where the disease still occurs and (b) to liberalize intra-Community trade completely without hindering exports of pigs and pigmeat to non-member countries.

1.2. The Committee would take this opportunity to reassert its belief in a system of free trade within the Community in which the health provisions of the Member States are not used as a pretext for trade barriers.

1.3. Nor must the measures provided for in the programme be allowed to interfere with the export of pigmeat to non-member countries.

1.4. The present programme must be seen as a whole and dealt with as such during the consultation, decision-making and implementation procedures.

1.5. Incorporation into national law may present difficulties in some Member States. The Commission's objectives must be seen in conjunction with the differing circumstances prevailing in the nine Member States. As a result it will hardly be possible to meet the deadline set by the Commission for the implementation of the measures, i.e. 1 January 1981.

1.6. The Committee would point out these difficulties and urge the Commission and Council to tackle them.

1.7. The Committee further proposes that there be at least six months between the decision being taken and the introduction of the programme.

1.8. The Committee realizes that it is very difficult to estimate the cost of the programme.

1.9. It notes the Commission's intention to review costs at the end of the first year of the programme.

1.10. It attaches importance to the statement that any additional costs arising from the programme will not be payable by the economic sectors involved.

## 2. SPECIFIC COMMENTS

**2.1. Proposal for a Council Directive relating to the date of entry into force of Directive 80/217/EEC introducing Community measures for the control of classical swine fever**

2.1.1. *Article 1*

The Committee would refer to its above comment on the deadline for the entry into force of the Community programme to eradicate classical swine fever.

**2.2. Amendments to the proposal for a Council Regulation laying down conditions designed to render and keep the territory of the Community free from classical swine fever (amendments under the second paragraph of Article 149 of the Treaty)**

2.2.1. *Page 2, paragraph 5 (bottom of page)*

Replace 'in Article 5' by 'in Article 16'.

2.2.2. *Page 3, paragraph 6*

Lines 2 and 3 to read as follows:

'Annex I, C of Directive 80/217/EEC'.

**2.3. Proposal for a Council Decision introducing Community financial measures for the control of classical swine fever**

2.3.1. *Article 2*

2.3.1.1. The Committee would urge that an interim report on the progress of the five-year campaign be drawn up after three years.

2.3.1.2. Any change in funding would have to be based on this interim report.

2.3.2. *Article 3*

2.3.2.1. The Committee approves the Commission's proposal that the Member States and the Guidance Section of the EAGGF each bear up to 50% of the costs of the eradication programme.

2.3.2.2. It must be clearly stated that these percentages may not be altered during the five-year implementation period.

2.3.2.3. The Committee would further emphasize that in those Community regions where samples are required for detection purposes, it must be ensured

that the taking and examination of these samples is appropriate to the objectives of the programme.

2.3.2.4. The Standing Veterinary Committee should try to ensure that the number of samples taken is kept to a minimum and that they are examined in a qualified laboratory. On this depends not only the smooth implementation of the proposed eradication programme but also the proper use of the available funds.

Done at Brussels, 24 September 1980.

*The Chairman*  
*of the Economic and Social Committee*  
Raffaele VANNI

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*ANNEX*

**to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee**

**Rejected amendment**

The following amendment, submitted in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, was rejected during the debate:

*Page 2*

Insert following before point 1.1:

'It is not possible to comment realistically on the effect of the proposed accelerated eradication schemes pending the publication of a draft of the Directive or Regulation under which approval would be given, deferred or refused by the Commission in relation to eradication schemes to be prepared by an undisclosed number of Member States.

Moreover, information is not available on the time scale involved in the preparation of eradication schemes for approval, or in relation to the dates of commencement or the time-span for implementation of schemes which may be approved at unknown future dates.'

*Reasons*

This is necessary because the Directive or Regulation necessary to give effect to document COM(80) 206 final has not been circulated or published. The new Directive may apply to some (but not all) Member States and problems may arise in the time scale for the introduction of the schemes.

*Voting*

For: 7; against: 44; abstentions: 18.

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