Livestock and meat statistics

2007/0051(COD) - 01/04/2008

The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development adopted the report by Friedrich-Wilhelm **GRAEFE ZU BARINGDORF** (Greens/EFA, DE) amending, under the codecision procedure, the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning meat and livestock statistics.

The proposed amendments are of a technical nature and correspond (with a small number of exceptions) to the wording drawn up by the Council working party and forwarded by the Portuguese presidency on 28 December 2007, in order to enable a first reading agreement to be reached. The amendments are as follows:

- some of the provisions, previously set out in the annexes, are clarified in the legislative text (in particular the definitions in Article 2 and the quality assessment in Article 17);
- from now on, Member States will have more room for manoeuvre in making use of administrative data rather than statistical surveys: in the case of use of administrative sources, Member States shall inform the Commission in advance about methods used and the quality of data. In the case of sources other than surveys, Member States will ensure this information is of at least equal quality to information obtained from statistical surveys;
- qualification as regards regional surveys: in order to limit the burden on Member States, the regional data requirements should not exceed the requirements under previous legislation. These requirements are optional for territorial units having less than 150 000 pigs, 75 000 bovine animals, 100 000 sheep and 25 000 goats if these territorial units summed up together contribute with 5% or less to the national population of the relevant species;
- limitations and clarification as regards forecasts for bovine animals and pigs;
- in order to ensure a smooth transition from the regime applicable under Directives 93/23/EEC, 93/24 /EEC and 93/25/EEC, the Regulation should allow a transitional period of up to one year and, in the case of sheep, up to two years, to be granted to Member States where the application of this Regulation to their national statistical systems would require major adaptations and would be likely to cause significant practical problems;
- MEPS ask that the regulatory procedure with scrutiny be applied to all comitology provisions, including the provisions on quality reports, the granting of transitional periods to Member States and the modifications of Annexes I, II, IV and V;
- lastly, the terminology used should be in line with the internationally agreed zoological nomenclature.