Allegations of infringements or maladministration in the application of Community law on BSE

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The Council acknowledged a note from the French delegation calling on the Commission to investigate possible additional measures that the EU should adopt in order to prevent and monitor bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). This mainly concerned the implementation of a continuous surveillance system for transmissible BSE, together with the exclusion from the human and animal food chain of tissue likely to contain the pathogenic agent. The UK delegation expressed its support for this approach. Commissioner FISCHLER pointed out that the Commission had submitted the French delegation’s recommendations to the opinion of the Veterinary Scientific Committee and to the recently appointed Multidisciplinary Scientific Committee, the aim being to examine all the technical measures needed to reassure consumers of beef and other meats and to protect their health in an efficient manner, using scientific data as a basis. It was important to initiate a Community approach based on several technical procedures, while at the same time avoiding isolated national measures. At the end of its deliberations the Council took note of the general direction that the Commission would be taking on this matter and called on the latter to present the authorities concerned with all the additional measures that the Scientific Committees would judge necessary in order to prevent any risk of BSE transmission.