Follow-up to the recommendations on the bovine spongiform encephalopathy BSE

1997/2066(INI) - 18/11/1997

In adopting a joint resolution of the PSE, PPE, UPE, ELDR, GUE/NGL, V and EDN Groups by 427 votes to 33 with 45 abstentions, the European Parliament has given its support to the conclusions of the report by Mr Reimer BÖGE (PPE, D). The Commission's action is approved, with a number of reservations and a call for careful surveillance. Parliament instructs its committees of inquiry to monitor the Commission's application of the recommendations of its temporary committee of inquiry into BSE on the basis of the half-yearly progress reports which the Commission has undertaken to provide. It calls on the Commission, at the next Intergovernmental Conference, to join with it in calling for full codecision powers to be granted to Parliament for all sectors of the common agricultural policy. As the latest results of scientific research have proved the existence of a close link between BSE and new variant Creutzfeld-Jacob Disease, Parliament calls on the Commission and the Member States to allocate the necessary financial resources in order to express their solidarity with the families of the victims of this disease. Regarding disciplinary provisions, it calls on the Commission to review the Staff Regulations before 1999 in order to introduce more flexibility into disciplinary procedures. It recommends the organization of a joint conference with the Commission towards the end of 1998 in order to establish which of its committee of inquiry's recommendations have not been applied and to evaluate the consequences thereof. Finally, it calls for measures to ensure that a Member State's government is in future required to send one of its members to appear before a European Parliament committee of inquiry where necessary.