Veterinary medicines: bovine somatotropine BST, placing on the market and administration (repeal. Decision 90/218/EEC)

1999/0219(CNS) - 13/12/1999

The committee unanimously adopted the report (consultation procedure) by Hedwig KEPPELHOFF-WIECHERT (EPP/ED, D) approving the Commission's proposal to convert the current moratorium on the marketing and administration of BST (bovine somatotrophin) into a permanent ban. The committee was concerned about the risks to human health posed by BST in dairy products and adopted a number of amendments to the proposal highlighting the need for further evaluation of them. Under WTO rules, the ban cannot apply to the manufacture and importing of BST in the Member States for the purposes of exports to third countries as long as there is no scientific evidence of a danger to human health. The committee reluctantly accepted this but sought to amend the proposal to ensure that no EU subsidies go towards the production or bottling of a product whose use is considered irresponsible.