Animal protection: convention on vertebrates used for experimental and scientific purposes, protocol of amendment

2001/0278(CNS) - 28/11/2001 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: To allow Community signature to the Protocol of Amendment to the European Convention for the protection of vertebrate animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes. CONTENT: The Community became a Party to the 1986 Council of Europe Convention for the protection of vertebrate animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes in 1998. The implementing tool for the Convention is Directive 86/609/EEC on the protection of animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes. Since becoming a Party to the Convention, the Council of Europe has opened for signature a "Protocol of Amendment", which will allow the Appendices of the Convention to be amended via a simplified procedure, instead of via a fully-fledged amendment to the Convention which would necessitate ratification by all of the Parties to the Convention. In essence the aim of the Protocol of Amendment is to allow for speedy changes to the Appendices as and when technological developments necessitate - in particular Appendix A which covers guidelines for the housing and care of laboratory animals. The Commission therefore proposes the Council approve this Protocol on behalf of the Community and to authorise the designation of the person or persons empowered to sign the Protocol. Additionally, and along side the signature, Directive 86/609/EEC should be amended to include the Regulatory Committee procedures concerning the exercise of implementing powers conferred on the Commission. It is finally recommended that the Council should only allow the signature to take place once those Member States who are also Parties to the Convention have ratified the Protocol of Amendment themselves.