Animal health: movements of ovine and caprine animals, reinforcement of controls (amend. Directive 91/68/EEC)

2002/0218(CNS) - 12/09/2002 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE : to reinforce the controls on movement of sheep and goats in order to strengthen the health guarantees offered by Member States. CONTENT : ovine and caprine animals, as well as bovine animals and swine, are susceptible to a common range of diseases and are frequently kept under similar conditions. It is therefore appropriate to apply similar animal health standards to ovine and caprine animals as for bovines and swine. During the 2001 foot-and-mouth disease epidemic in certain parts of the Community sheep primarily contributed to the spread of disease due to lack of clear clinical signs in combination with frequent movements. The Commission therefore adopted specific protective measures in order to reinforce the control on movement of and trade in sheep and goats. The purpose of the present proposal is to reinforce the controls on intra-Community trade in sheep and goats so as to align these requirements to those approved for animal species susceptible to the same diseases and managed in a similar system of animal husbandry. This proposal is part of a package of legislative activities of the Commission to prevent the spread of major infectious diseases, if they would occur in the Community. This proposal has no financial implications for the budget of the European Community.