

Animal nutrition: official inspections

1998/0301(COD) - 22/03/2000

The committee adopted the recommendation for second reading (codecision procedure) by Bart STAES (Greens/EFA, B) amending the Council common position on the principles governing the organisation of official inspections in the field of animal nutrition. The committee stood up for the Commission's right to carry out spot checks on animal feed in the Member States, saying that experts must be allowed to carry out checks without warning as soon as the health of animal feed on the Community market was at risk. The problem with the common position, in the committee's view, was the administrative method chosen: the Council had opted for a "regulatory committee" procedure instead of a "safeguard" procedure, which meant the Commission would not be able to take rapid action even in an emergency. Under the Commission's original proposal, it would have retained the power, in emergencies, to take safeguard measures appropriate in the case of animal feed, but this suggestion was deleted in the common position. The committee, however, unanimously backed its rapporteur in calling for this point to be reinstated.