Animal health requirements: non commercial movement of pet animals

2000/0221(COD) - 10/04/2001

The committee adopted the report by Jillian EVANS (Greens/EFA, UK) broadly approving the proposal under the codecision procedure (first reading), subject to a number of amendments. In particular, the committee wanted identification through tattoos to be phased out in eight years in favour of microchips, arguing that this was a more effective method of identification and was also a more humane method of treating animals. Tattoos could fade in time and become difficult to read. Provision should also be made for the indication of details identifying the name and address of the animal's owner. The committee also believed that detailed information for the public should be provided so that people could make the necessary preparations for travel with their pets. Staff at border points needed to be fully informed of the health requirements applicable for the movement of pets, as effective checks at EU borders were imperative to ensure the success of the new system. As regards drawing up the list of third countries which were deemed to be free of rabies, the committee wanted the Commission text to be replaced by the OIE Animal Health Code definition, which gave more information on the health status of the country and provided more adequate guarantees. It also felt that ferrets should not be included among the specified mammals covered by the proposal, as immunity testing for ferrets was not available. Lastly, it wanted Article 152 (public health) to be the sole legal base for the regulation.