Beef and veal: additional payments to be made in 1996, common organisation of the markets COM in (amend. Regul. 805/68/EEC)

1996/0148(CNS) - 29/05/1996 - Legislative proposal

OBJECTIVE: following the BSE crisis, the proposal for a regulation aims to provide for immediate emergency income support to beef producers. CONTENT: as regards the amount of aid to be granted, the Commission sought to determine the impact of the price reduction since 20 March 1996 by projecting this reduction forward until the end of the year. According to the Commission's estimates, the price reduction should lead to a loss of income totalling ECU 650 million for this year. As regards the method of payment, the Commission proposed increasing the premium for suckler cows by ECU 25 and the premium for male animals by ECU 21. In order to allow the payments to be made as quickly as possible, the Commission proposes that these supplements be granted on the basis of the information already available in the Member States with respect to the payment of the 1995 premia. However, in cases where producers subsequently claim lower premia in respect of 1996, part of the payments already made should be recovered and the sums thus recovered should be distributed to those producers whose validated claims for 1996 are higher than those for 1995. The cost of this measure is estimated at ECU 534 million. The Commission proposes that the balance between this figure and the total of ECU 650 million (ECU 116 million) should be distributed among the Member States on the basis of the size of their non-dairy cattle herds as published by Eurostat. These sums will be available to the Member States to use as a contribution to national aid schemes in cases where, in the judgment of the Member States, additional aid is needed to help tackle problems not fully resolved by the increase in the premia. The Commission also proposes a technical amendment to the calf processing scheme. Under current conditions, this scheme applies only to calves not more than 10 days old. Since this age limit is difficult to respect, it is proposed that the Commission should have the opportunity of authorising a slightly higher age, accompanied by the necessary controls.