

Public health: network for epidemiological surveillance and control of communicable diseases in the European Community EWRS

1996/0052(COD) - 25/07/1997 - Commission communication on Council's position

In its assessment of the Council's common position on the Decision creating a network for epidemiological surveillance, the Commission indicated that it could not support the Council's text. In particular, the Commission criticized the Council for not having respected the main aim of its proposal, the setting-up of a network to respond effectively and in a coordinated manner to epidemics or the outbreak of communicable diseases in a Community without internal frontiers. The Commission was especially unhappy with the following points: - financial responsibility: the use of funds from existing programmes might seriously jeopardise their implementation; - response system for prevention and control: the tasks set by the Council were vague and contradictory. Moreover, the Council included measures in this field that should come under intergovernmental cooperation (contrary to the commitology procedure provided for); - protection against communicable diseases: the Council did not include the adoption of Community measures in this field, although it was empowered to do so by Article 129 of the Treaty; - evaluation and reports: the drafting of reports every two years was considered unrealistic and unnecessarily costly; - annex: in the Commission's view, this list could not be merely 'indicative': for the selection of diseases covered, it could be indicative, but for the communication of cases or emergencies to Member States, the list should be compulsory.