Bovine animals: system for the identification and registration

1996/0228(CNS) - 19/02/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Xaver MAYER (EPP, D) Parliament amended the Commission's proposal for a regulation establishing a system for the identification and registration of bovine animals. It required in particular that: - the harmonization of systems should be assured by adequate funding by the European Commission, - the data base should be fully operational by 31 December 1997 at the latest: by that date it should contain birth and slaughter data and should contain all other data from 31 December 1998 at the latest, - this data base should be accessible to consumer protection organizations in well-founded cases recognized by the national bodies. With regard to the ear-tags, Parliament proposed that they should be applied within 30 days following the birth of the animal (and not 14 days as proposed by the Commission) and in any case before the animal leaves the holding on which it was born. These tags should be of a standardized type, approved, not forgeable and legible throughout the animal's life. When they become illegible or if they are lost the competent office must issue a replacement tag. With regard to the passport, it must be issued for each animal to which an ear-tag has been allocated and must accompany the animals during any movement. After attaching the ear-tag the keeper is required to activate the associated passport. Animals imported from third countries shall receive on entry into the Union a passport corresponding to the ear-tag. If it is guaranteed that the central data base contains all the information provided for and that all the animal movements are registered in it, the Member States may dispense with the introduction of animal passports. The European Commission was called on to adopt by 1 April 1997 at the latest the provisions concerning the application of the regulation. The regulation will be applicable with effect from 1 July 1997.