Basic information

1996/0143(CNS) CNS - Consultation procedure Regulation	Procedure lapsed or withdrawn
Decentralized Community agencies: setting-up of a European Agency for veterinary and phytosanitory inspection **Subject** 3.10.08 Animal health requirements, veterinary legislation and pharmacy 3.10.09.02 Plant health legislation 8.40.08 Agencies and bodies of the EU	

Key players

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Agriculture and Fisheries	1959	1996-10-28
Agriculture and Fisheries	1963	1996-11-18

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
29/05/1996	Legislative proposal published	COM(1996)0223	Summary
04/09/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
28/10/1996	Debate in Council		
18/11/1996	Debate in Council		Summary
24/10/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1996/0143(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Legal basis	EC Treaty (before Amsterdam) E 043
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure lapsed or withdrawn
Committee dossier	ENVI/4/08178

Documentation gateway

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(1996)0223 OJ C 239 17.08.1996, p. 0009	29/05/1996	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1396/1996 OJ C 066 03.03.1997, p. 0043	27/11/1996	Summary

Additional information		
Source	**Document**	**Date**
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Decentralized Community agencies: setting-up of a European Agency for veterinary and phytosanitory inspection

1996/0143(CNS) - 29/05/1996 - Legislative proposal

OBJECTIVE: the proposal for a regulation aims to establish a European Agency for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Inspection. The inspection structures must be strengthened together with the credibility of the inspectors' work by: - developing the autonomy of the inspection service; - increasing the number of inspectors in order to cover the checks in all the areas harmonised at Community level; - enhance the ability of the Community's inspection service to cope with emergency situations that may justify the adoption of safeguard measures by the Commission. CONTENT: the proposal aims to convert the Office of Veterinary and Phytosanitary Inspection and Control (OVPIC) that has existed within the Commission since 1992 into a European Agency for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Inspection with administrative and financial autonomy. This Agency would carry out on-the-spot checks and assessments in the Member States and third countries in place of Commission experts and should report on its findings to the Commission.

Decentralized Community agencies: setting-up of a European Agency for veterinary and phytosanitory inspection

1996/0143(CNS) - 27/11/1996 - Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report

According to the ESC, a strong and efficient authority for the monitoring and inspection of veterinary and phytosanitary matters was vital for the smooth functioning of the single market and for strengthening consumer protection. This authority should be invested with full powers that would enable it to verify that Community directives were being properly applied and to check that obligations towards third countries were being met. However, the Committee was not convinced of the need to convert the present office into an agency. It took the view that the office should be strengthened by a larger and permanent workforce, unless it could be demonstrated beyond doubt that the establishment of such an agency would yield clear benefits for public health and consumer protection and for the food industry in general. However, the Committee did accept the principles being proposed in respect of the powers and main areas of competence of such an agency, though was of the opinion that one of the conditions for setting-up such a body was that it should be funded by the budget. The authority responsible for the inspections had to be provided with sufficient resources to be able to operate in an efficient and effective manner.

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1996/0143(CNS) - 18/11/1996

The Council studied the proposal for a regulation that had been put forward by the Commission and, following the debate, decided to adopt the following conclusions: ‘The Council 1) takes note of the assurance given by the Commission that the relocation of the OVPIC to Ireland, in accordance

with the Council decision of 29 October 1993, will be completed as soon as possible. It also notes that the premises required for this relocation will be provided by the Irish Government in agreement with the Commission and under a leasing contract. In the event that an agency is set up, the lease shall be transferred to this body; 2) resolves that all necessary steps shall be taken to ensure the smooth operation of the OVPIC during the relocation phase; 3) resolves that the proposal for establishing an agency shall be reviewed when Parliament's opinion is known, without prejudging the position of the Member States; 4) takes note of the current situation in respect of the staff of the Commission's veterinary service and calls on the Commission to take the steps that are needed to ensure that an adequate workforce is in place to enable the Office to carry out its tasks in an efficient manner, so that the Community is able to perform its inspection work.' The Commission indicated that it could not fully support these conclusions. Questions to do with the funding of the Office, and if need be of the Agency, had been referred back to the Permanent Representatives Committee for re-examination.