

Basic information	
1996/0229(CNS) CNS - Consultation procedure Regulation	Procedure completed
Beef: identification and registration of bovine animals, labelling of beef and beef products	
Repealed by 1999/0204(COD)	
Subject 3.10.05.01 Meat 4.60.02 Consumer information, advertising, labelling	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	PAPAYANNAKIS Mihail (GUE/NGL)	30/10/1996
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	MAYER Xaver (PPE)	03/10/1996
Council of the European Union	Committee for opinion	GEBHARDT Evelyne (PSE)	19/12/1996
	Council configuration	Meetings	Date
	Agriculture and Fisheries	1980	1996-12-17
	Agriculture and Fisheries	1959	1996-10-28
	Agriculture and Fisheries	1963	1996-11-18
	Agriculture and Fisheries	2061	1997-12-15
	Agriculture and Fisheries	2000	1997-04-21
	Agriculture and Fisheries	1995	1997-03-17
	Agriculture and Fisheries	1985	1997-01-20
	Agriculture and Fisheries	1988	1997-02-17
Research		1952	1996-10-07

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary

02/10/1996	Initial legislative proposal published	COM(1996)0460 	Summary
07/10/1996	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		Summary
28/10/1996	Debate in Council		
18/11/1996	Debate in Council		Summary
17/12/1996	Debate in Council		
20/01/1997	Debate in Council		
05/02/1997	Vote in committee		Summary
05/02/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A4-0037/1997	
17/02/1997	Debate in Council		
19/02/1997	Debate in Parliament		Summary
07/03/1997	Legislative proposal published	COM(1997)0103	
17/03/1997	Debate in Council		Summary
07/04/1997	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
21/04/1997	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
21/04/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
07/05/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1996/0229(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Amendments and repeals	Repealed by 1999/0204(COD)
Legal basis	EC before Amsterdam E 100A
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENVI/4/08337

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0037/1997 OJ C 085 17.03.1997, p. 0005	05/02/1997	

Council of the EU				
Document type	Reference	Date	Summary	
Document attached to the procedure	N4-0417/1996	03/07/1996	Summary	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Initial legislative proposal	COM(1996)0460 	02/10/1996	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(1997)0103 OJ C 100 27.03.1997, p. 0022	07/03/1997	
Follow-up document	COM(1999)0229 	04/05/1999	

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1404/1996 OJ C 066 03.03.1997, p. 0084	27/11/1996	Summary

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Regulation 1997/0820
[OJ L 117 07.05.1997, p. 0001](#)

[Summary](#)

Beef: identification and registration of bovine animals, labelling of beef and beef products

1996/0229(CNS) - 21/04/1997

OBJECTIVE: to establish a reliable system for the identification and registration of bovine animals with a view to restoring consumer confidence in their quality. COMMUNITY MEASURE: Council Regulation 820/97/EC establishing a system for the identification and registration of bovine animals and regarding the labelling of beef and beef products. SUBSTANCE: the Council finally adopted a single regulation based on Article 43 of the EC Treaty. The text provides for the introduction of the identification of all animals born after 1 January 1998 by two eartags and by passports or identification documents. This identification is to replace the system currently in force under Directive 92/102/EEC not later than 1 January 2000. Provision is made for derogations, specifically for animals born before 1 January 1998 and bulls. The identity of each animal and its movements will be recorded on a database in each Member State, and all information concerning the animal's movements will be recorded in a passport that will accompany the animal wherever it goes. Keepers of animals must also keep an up-to-date register in which they record detailed information on the bovine animals on their holdings. As regards the labelling of beef and beef products, a compulsory system will be introduced on 1 January 2000. However, this does not exclude the possibility of a Member State deciding to apply the system merely on an optional basis to beef sold exclusively in its territory. An optional labelling system will remain in force until 31 December 1999. It requires that, where an organization or operator decides to label its beef, a specification must be submitted for approval by the competent authority of the Member State where the production operations will take place or the products concerned will be sold. Until 31 December 1999 each label must at least bear an identification code which ensures a link between, on the one hand, the identification of the carcase, quarter or pieces of meat and, on the other hand, the individual animal or the animals concerned. The labelling system compulsory in all the Member States from 1 January 2000 must also require indication of the Member State or third country where the animal from which the beef is derived was born, the Member States or third countries where the animal was raised and the Member State or third

country where it was slaughtered. However, Member States where there is a sufficiently developed identification and registration system for bovine animals may before 1 January 2000 impose a compulsory labelling system for beef from animals born, fattened and slaughtered in their territory.
ENTRY INTO FORCE: 7 May 1997. The regulation applies from 1 July 1997.

Beef: identification and registration of bovine animals, labelling of beef and beef products

1996/0229(CNS) - 18/11/1996

The Council instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to continue to examine the Commission's proposals so that it could decide on these issues before the end of the year, provided that Parliament's opinion was available.

Beef: identification and registration of bovine animals, labelling of beef and beef products

1996/0229(CNS) - 02/10/1996 - Initial legislative proposal

OBJECTIVE: to reinforce the provisions concerning the labelling of beef and beef products with a view to restoring consumer confidence in their quality. SUBSTANCE: the proposed regulation requires each operator or organization in the beef trade to submit a specification indicating the information to be included on the label and measures to be taken to ensure its accuracy. The specification must also describe the control system to be applied and the measures to be taken in relation to operators who do not comply with its provisions. The specification must establish the link between the identification of the carcase and cuts of meat or meat products with the identification of the individual animal from which it came. Mention is also made of the information which may be included on the label: information concerning the animal, including the method of fattening and other information in relation to feeding.

Beef: identification and registration of bovine animals, labelling of beef and beef products

1996/0229(CNS) - 07/10/1996

In its conclusions of 14 May 1996 the Council declared that TSE (transmissible spongiform encephalopathy) was a public health issue and took the view that all appropriate steps should be taken to eradicate the risk of possible transmission of BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy). It considered that there was a need for substantial improvements in the level of cooperation and coordination of research activities and in the exchange of information in this area and therefore called on the Commission to take suitable steps towards achieving this. It also called on the Commission to continue to provide updated information on the research work being carried out under the Fourth Framework Programme and, in particular, to give an account of recent calls for proposals concerning transmissible BSE and its possible link with neuro-degenerative diseases in humans. The Commission was to intensify its research activities in this field to include subject areas such as basic and applied biology, human and animal health and diagnostic procedures, particularly in association with the life science programmes. The Council agreed to look into this question again at the next Research Council meeting (5 December 1996) on the basis of the communication from the Commission, taking into account current research activities, including work under way or being planned in the Member States, and scientific opinion emanating from various expert groups, and in particular from that chaired by Professor Weissman and the Multidisciplinary Scientific Committee.

Beef: identification and registration of bovine animals, labelling of beef and beef products

1996/0229(CNS) - 03/07/1996 - Document attached to the procedure

OBJECTIVE: the position paper seeks to define the Commission's position on the framework for the eradication of BSE in the cattle herd in the United Kingdom and for the reestablishment of the single market in beef. SUBSTANCE: the framework plan sets out the action which the United Kingdom is in the process of taking and the action which it has undertaken to carry out in future in order to speed up the elimination of the disease. Once this action has been established it will lead to a gradual easing of the current restrictions of beef products from the United Kingdom to the rest of the EU and to third countries. With regard to the conditions and arrangements for the gradual lifting of the ban on British beef products, the Commission considers that any plan seeking gradually to restore the single market in beef will require the following actions by the United Kingdom: - implementation of a selective slaughter programme to be approved by the Commission under the Standing Veterinary Committee procedure; - introduction of an effective animal identification and movement recording system with official registration; - legislation for the removal of meat-and-bone meal from feed mills and farms and cleansing of the premises and equipment concerned; - effective implementation of the over 30 months rule including the destruction of the animals; - improved methods for removing specified bovine material from carcases. These actions must be backed up by Community inspections to verify correct and effective implementation. This approach, which concentrates on human and animal health should enable agreement on a procedure allowing the gradual removal of the ban, using the following four stages: a) animals and meat from certified herds (no history of BSE and no exposure

to infected meat-and-bone meal); b) embryos; c) animals born after a specific date; d) meat from animals under 30 months; e) meat from animals over 30 months (longer term). Exports to third countries will be permitted in parallel to phased exports to other Member States, in line with the principle of precaution. The document defines the procedure to be applied at each stage in order to guarantee the successful outcome of this framework.

Beef: identification and registration of bovine animals, labelling of beef and beef products

1996/0229(CNS) - 27/11/1996

Since beef consumption can be brought back to normal only through a package of measures, the Committee backs in principle the Commission's efforts in submitting two draft directives designed to create, within a short space of time, an EU-wide basis for improving cattle identification and the labelling of beef and beef products. The Committee is in no doubt that a comprehensive identification system must start by securing the adequate identification of livestock. Attention must also be paid however to ease of implementation in the individual Member States and also to existing labelling systems. Moves must be made to avoid overburdening beef farmers and dealers so as to ensure acceptance of the system from the start. The Committee broadly backs the Commission proposal on the labelling of beef and beef products since it believes that this can meet the information requirements of many consumers and go a long way to helping restore consumer confidence in European beef. The ESC would point out, however, that consumer confidence can only be restored in the long term if labelling of the origin of beef is obligatory. The Committee feels that the Commission proposal should be geared towards a new objective: - general obligation to identify carcasses; - in the case of fresh meat, obligatory identification at every stage, ending with the final consumer. The Committee feels that the identification arrangements for beef products could be optional.

Beef: identification and registration of bovine animals, labelling of beef and beef products

1996/0229(CNS) - 17/03/1997

After lengthy discussions the Council reached unanimous political agreement, on the basis of a Presidency compromise proposal, on a draft single Regulation based on Article 43 of the Treaty. It will be remembered that, further to the Opinion of the European Parliament, the Commission decided to combine the two original proposals based on Article 43 of the Treaty, which provides for a codecision procedure. The Council did not concur with the Commission on the issue of the legal basis for its proposal. The Commission said it deeply regretted the Council's choice.

Beef: identification and registration of bovine animals, labelling of beef and beef products

1996/0229(CNS) - 19/02/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

In adopting the report by Mr PAPAYANNAKIS (GUE, Gk) Parliament amended the proposal for a regulation regarding the labelling of beef and beef products. It called for the proposal to be based on Article 100a of the EC Treaty (internal market, co-decision procedure) instead of Article 43 of the EC Treaty (agriculture, consultation procedure). On the content of the proposal, Parliament confirmed its willingness for compulsory labelling for beef and beef products. The following information should appear on the label: - Member State, region of a Member State or third country of birth, sex, breed and method of breeding of the animal; - any genetic engineering techniques performed on the embryo or transgenic origin of the animal; - other information on antibiotics and stimulants administered; - Member States, regions of Member States or third countries where the fattening took place; If beef from different countries of origin is available at a point of sale, the origin of each piece should be evident from the labelling. Parliament also required: - the extension of labelling to processed goods containing beef and beef products within one year of the entry into force; - the imposition of administrative and financial penalties on any party failing to comply with the requirements of this Regulation; - the entry into force of the regulation on 1 July 1997 (instead of 1 January 1997); - Member States to submit annual reports to the Commission on the implementation of the regulation.