Basic information

1997/2066(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Follow-up to the recommendations on the bovine spongiform encephalopathy BSE **Subject** 3.10.08.05 Animal diseases 4.60.04.04 Food safety	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development		
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection		

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Agriculture and Fisheries	2045	1997-11-17
Agriculture and Fisheries	2034	1997-10-20
Agriculture and Fisheries	2028	1997-09-22
Agriculture and Fisheries	2025	1997-07-22
Health	2013	1997-06-05

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
23/04/1997	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
05/06/1997	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
22/09/1997	Debate in Council		
20/10/1997	Debate in Council		
06/11/1997	Decision by Parliament	A4-0362/1997	
06/11/1997	Vote in committee		Summary
06/11/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0362/1997	
17/11/1997	Debate in Council		
18/11/1997	Debate in Parliament		Summary
18/11/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1997/2066(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Special committee/Committee of inquiry
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 213
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	TEMP/4/08817

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0362/1997 OJ C 371 08.12.1997, p. 0004	06/11/1997	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	COM(1997)0509	20/10/1997	Summary

Follow-up to the recommendations on the bovine spongiform encephalopathy BSE

1997/2066(INI) - 20/10/1997 - Document attached to the procedure

The European Commission adopted its final report on the follow up of the European Parliament's recommendations in relation to the continuing BSE crisis. This document outlines the progress made since the end of the inquiry by Parliament, in particular with regard to eradication of BSE, protection of public health and restoration of consumer confidence. According to the report the investigations in progress have shown that there are malfunctions in the official monitoring of meat production in the Member States and the Commission will therefore take steps to strengthen the system of veterinary controls in the Union in order to improve the safety of foodstuffs and to prevent fraud. The report draws particular attention to an ambitious work programme on food safety which it will implement and monitor in close cooperation with the other Community institutions and with the Member States. Subsequent progress will be described in other reports which it will submit twice a year to Parliament and the Council. The Commission also stresses that the number of cases of BSE has fallen sharply, in particular because of the slaughter of about 1.7 million cattle over thirty months, as provided for by the Florence agreement. The number of known cases has thus fallen from 3 000 new cases a month in 1992/93 to less than 500 in 1997. The Commission reiterates that it will not hesitate to use the legal means at its disposal to ensure that the legislation is correctly implemented. A considerable number of other steps undertaken in relation to the management of this matter (mainly internal reorganization) are also pointed out to members. With regard to the disciplinary measures called for by the European Parliament, the Commission states that it has studied the question and found no grounds to justify starting such a procedure. It should be noted that the Commission shares Parliament's view concerning compensation for the victims of nv-CJD, a human version of the transmissible spongiform encephalopathies. Lastly, the Commission highlights some major problems which will have to be dealt with in future: - how to ensure that the Union's exports do not face unjustified restrictions on access to the world market while remaining able to set the level of protection for human health it considers appropriate; - provision of a derogation for pharmaceutical products as analysis of risk must also take their beneficial effects into account so as to avoid a shortage of essential medicines in the Community; - how to ensure the full implementation of Community legislation when the responsibility for effective checks on its implementation rests with the Member States, the Commission's role essentially being to check how they perform this task. Here the Commission suggests that the Member States should adopt a more common approach with regard to procedures, organization, teaching standards and training of their inspectors.