

**ARCHIVES HISTORIQUES
DE LA COMMISSION**

**COLLECTION RELIEE DES
DOCUMENTS "COM"**

COM (82)524

Vol. 1982/0173

Historical Archives of the European Commission

Disclaimer

Conformément au règlement (CEE, Euratom) n° 354/83 du Conseil du 1er février 1983 concernant l'ouverture au public des archives historiques de la Communauté économique européenne et de la Communauté européenne de l'énergie atomique (JO L 43 du 15.2.1983, p. 1), tel que modifié par le règlement (CE, Euratom) n° 1700/2003 du 22 septembre 2003 (JO L 243 du 27.9.2003, p. 1), ce dossier est ouvert au public. Le cas échéant, les documents classifiés présents dans ce dossier ont été déclassifiés conformément à l'article 5 dudit règlement.

In accordance with Council Regulation (EEC, Euratom) No 354/83 of 1 February 1983 concerning the opening to the public of the historical archives of the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community (OJ L 43, 15.2.1983, p. 1), as amended by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1700/2003 of 22 September 2003 (OJ L 243, 27.9.2003, p. 1), this file is open to the public. Where necessary, classified documents in this file have been declassified in conformity with Article 5 of the aforementioned regulation.

In Übereinstimmung mit der Verordnung (EWG, Euratom) Nr. 354/83 des Rates vom 1. Februar 1983 über die Freigabe der historischen Archive der Europäischen Wirtschaftsgemeinschaft und der Europäischen Atomgemeinschaft (ABl. L 43 vom 15.2.1983, S. 1), geändert durch die Verordnung (EG, Euratom) Nr. 1700/2003 vom 22. September 2003 (ABl. L 243 vom 27.9.2003, S. 1), ist diese Datei der Öffentlichkeit zugänglich. Soweit erforderlich, wurden die Verschlussachen in dieser Datei in Übereinstimmung mit Artikel 5 der genannten Verordnung freigegeben.

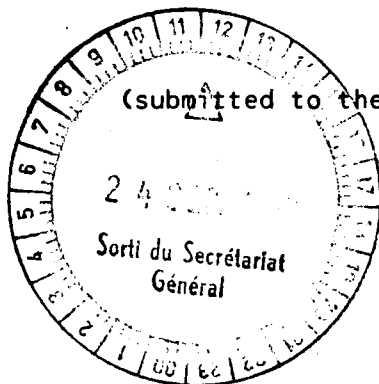
COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(82) 524 final

Brussels, 23 September 1982

Proposal for a
COUNCIL DECISION

on a financial contribution from the Community to
the campaign against foot-and-mouth disease in
South-East Europe



(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

24 SEP 1982
Sorti du Secrétariat
Général

COM(82) 524 final

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

I. The Director-General of the FAO has submitted a request to President Thorn for a financial contribution by the EEC to the continuance of the measures undertaken by his organization against exotic viruses of foot and mouth disease in the countries of South-East Europe.

This request is for the sum of USD 870,000 (about 889,200 EUA), primarily to purchase vaccines to maintain the buffer zone created some 20 years ago to prevent the spread of exotic foot and mouth viruses to other European countries and, consequently, to Community territory. This buffer zone covers areas on the border between Turkey and Greece, on the one hand, and between Turkey and Bulgaria, on the other.

The FAO has also appealed to non-EEC European countries for funds.

II. In assessing the advisability of this contribution to the FAO, account should be taken in particular of the following :

1. Experience in recent years has shown that the Middle East and the countries of South-East Europe are specially vulnerable to foot and mouth disease caused by exotic viruses. In 1962 there was an epizootic disease caused by SAT_I in Turkey and in 1964-65 an epizootic caused by A₂₂ virus in Turkey reached the Greek border. In 1972 Turkish Thrace and in particular Greece were effected by a second outbreak caused by A₂₂ virus and in 1973 Turkey was also affected by an epizootic caused by Asia₁ virus.

To create a barrier to the spread of these exotic viruses into Europe, in 1962 the FAO, with financial assistance from the EEC and other European countries, created a buffer zone along the Greek-Turkish and Bulgarian-Turkish borders within which all animals susceptible to foot and mouth disease were vaccinated systematically with vaccines effective against the foot and mouth viruses threatening Europe.

The action taken by the FAO was a decisive factor in preventing the spread of the various epizootics of foot and mouth disease into Europe.

2. The situation is now as follows : A₂₂ virus, which is exotic for the EEC, continues to exist in Anatolia, as does an O virus with different antigenic properties from the classic O types traditionally used in the preparation of European vaccines. The presence of Asia₁ virus in the Middle East also contributes a supplementary threat to South-East Europe, and, consequently, to Europe as a whole. Moreover, Turkey is still not in a position to produce the foot and mouth vaccine necessary to meet national requirements. Thus, the buffer zone can only be maintained with financial aid from European countries.

3. Community livestock is not vaccinated against exotic foot and mouth viruses. The Community is therefore very vulnerable to penetration by these viruses, which could spread very rapidly and cause serious losses.

III. According to information supplied by the FAO, a favourable reply to its request for funds would, given the current situation as regards foot and mouth disease in the Middle East, enable vaccination campaigns to be continued within the buffer zone until 1984, as recommended by the European Commission for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease and would enable any emergency actions which may become necessary in South-East Europe. The maintenance of the buffer zone beyond 1984 and the question of international support for vaccination campaigns will be examined in due course, in the light, in particular, of the epizootical situation as regards foot and mouth disease then obtaining in South-East Europe and the Middle East.

The current FAO programme provides for the annual supply of some 750,000 doses of bivalent A₂₂/O vaccine to maintain the buffer zone.

It should be noted that the composition of the foot and mouth vaccines to be used in the buffer zone and its extension could be changed at any time in particular in line with the epizootiological situation and the type of foot and mouth viruses threatening Europe.

IV. As was the case during previous operations, the correct use of the sums granted could be verified by an EEC representative at the level of an FAO/IOE/EEC advisory group.

V. The granting of the contribution to the FAO for the purchase of vaccine intended for Bulgaria and Turkey (about ⁸812,000) requires prior approval by Council decision; on the other hand, the financing of the vaccine intended for Greece (about ⁸58,000) may be charged to the "Emergency Veterinary Fund" as agreed at the negotiations for Greek accession to the EEC, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 2 of Council Decision 77/97/EEC of 21.12.1976 (OJ L 26 of 31 January 1977) (application by Greece - Standing Veterinary Committee procedure).

Proposal for a
Council Decision

on a financial contribution from the Community to the campaign against foot and
mouth disease in south-east Europe

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and
in particular Article 43 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament,

Whereas there have been outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease caused by viruses
foreign to the Community in recent years in certain regions of south-east Europe;
whereas the danger to Community livestock from such exotic foot-and-mouth viruses
has not yet been removed; whereas, consequently, aid should continue to be
granted to the non-member countries concerned to enable them to apply measures
designed to prevent the spread of these viruses, in particular by the creation
of buffer zones in these regions,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS :

Article 1

The Community contributes financially to the programme to fight exotic foot and
mouth disease in the South Eastern Countries of Europe. The Commission has under-
taken to aid financially the joint FAO programme within the budgetary exercise
of 1982 and 1982.

Article 2

The Commission shall be responsible for supervising the manner in which the sum
provided for in Article 1 is used. It shall report to the Council and the European
Parliament on the implementation of this Decision.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council

