

# Procedure file

Basic information		
CNS - Consultation procedure Regulation	<a href="#">1996/0228(CNS)</a>	Procedure completed
Bovine animals: system for the identification and registration		
Repealed by <a href="#">1999/0204(COD)</a>		
Subject		
3.10.04 Livestock farming		
4.60.02 Consumer information, advertising, labelling		

Key players				
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed	
	<b>AGRI</b> Agriculture and Rural Development		03/10/1996	
		PPE <a href="#">MAYER Xavier</a>		
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed	
	<b>ENVI</b> Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection		30/10/1996	
		GUE/NGL <a href="#">PAPAYANNAKIS Mihail</a>		
	<b>CONT</b> Budgetary Control		19/11/1996	
		PPE <a href="#">MCCARTIN John Joseph</a>		
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date	
	<a href="#">Agriculture and Fisheries</a>	<a href="#">2000</a>	21/04/1997	
	<a href="#">Agriculture and Fisheries</a>	<a href="#">1995</a>	17/03/1997	
	<a href="#">Agriculture and Fisheries</a>	<a href="#">1988</a>	17/02/1997	
	<a href="#">Agriculture and Fisheries</a>	<a href="#">1985</a>	20/01/1997	
	<a href="#">Agriculture and Fisheries</a>	<a href="#">1963</a>	18/11/1996	
	<a href="#">Agriculture and Fisheries</a>	<a href="#">1959</a>	28/10/1996	
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner		
	<a href="#">Agriculture and Rural Development</a>			

Key events			
02/10/1996	Legislative proposal published	COM(1996)0460	Summary
23/10/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
28/10/1996	Debate in Council	<a href="#">1959</a>	
18/11/1996	Debate in Council	<a href="#">1963</a>	

20/01/1997	Debate in Council	<a href="#">1985</a>	
27/01/1997	Vote in committee		Summary
27/01/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	<a href="#">A4-0022/1997</a>	
17/02/1997	Debate in Council	<a href="#">1988</a>	
19/02/1997	Debate in Parliament		Summary
19/02/1997	Decision by Parliament	T4-0049/1997	Summary
17/03/1997	Debate in Council	<a href="#">1995</a>	Summary
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	1996/0228(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
	Repealed by <a href="#">1999/0204(COD)</a>
Legal basis	EC before Amsterdam E 100A
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AGRI/4/08325

### Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal		COM(1996)0460	02/10/1996	EC	Summary
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report		<a href="#">CES1404/1996</a> <a href="#">OJ C 066 03.03.1997, p. 0084</a>	27/11/1996	ESC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		<a href="#">A4-0022/1997</a> <a href="#">OJ C 085 17.03.1997, p. 0004</a>	27/01/1997	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0049/1997 <a href="#">OJ C 085 17.03.1997, p. 0056-0077</a>	19/02/1997	EP	Summary
Follow-up document		COM(1999)0486	13/10/1999	EC	

### Additional information

European Commission	<a href="#">EUR-Lex</a>
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### Final act

[Regulation 1997/820](#)  
[OJ L 117 07.05.1997, p. 0001](#)

## Bovine animals: system for the identification and registration

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OBJECTIVE: to establish a reliable system for the identification and registration of bovine animals with a view to restoring consumer confidence in their quality. SUBSTANCE: it is proposed that a regulation on the identification and registration of bovine animals should be introduced to reinforce the current directive (Directive 92/102/EEC) so that animals may be efficiently and quickly traced and Community aid schemes monitored. The proposed identification and registration system provides for eartags to identify bovine animals individually, a centralized computerized database, a passport for each bovine animal and registers of animals on each holding. It should be noted that the proposed regulation provides for minimum requirements, which means that Member States may extend the rules. ?

## Bovine animals: system for the identification and registration

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To identify and register bovine animals in order to restore consumer confidence, this is the main aim of the report by Mr Xaver MAYER (PPE, D), adopted unanimously with 1 abstention by the committee (chairman: Mr José HAPPART (PSE, B)). The regulation proposed by the European Commission in the wake of the BSE crisis provides for the system to identify and register bovine animals to include the following: computerized data bases, earmarking to identify individual animals, animal passports and individual registers on each holding. The committee amended the Commission text and proposed that these "technical infrastructures should be of a comparable level in all Member States" and called for their harmonization to be assured by adequate funding by the European Commission. The data base should be fully operational by 31 December 1997: by that date it should contain "birth and slaughter data" and should contain all other data from 31 December 1998 at the latest. The committee also called for these data bases to be "accessible to consumer protection organizations in well-founded cases recognized by the national bodies". With regard to ear-tags, the committee proposed that they should be applied within 30 days of the birth of the animal (and not 14 days as proposed by the European Commission) and, in any case, "before the animal leaves the holding on which it was born". These ear-tags should be "of a standardized type, approved, not forgeable and legible throughout the animal's life". They should have the same single identification code. When they become illegible or if they are lost, the competent office must issue a replacement tag. The passport must be issued to each animal to which an ear-tag has been allocated and must "accompany the animals during any movement". The animal keeper "is required to activate the associated passport after attaching the ear-tag". 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 animal movements are registered in it, the Member States may dispense with the introduction of animal passports.?

## Bovine animals: system for the identification and registration

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While approving the Commission's proposal, the rapporteur considered that consumer confidence needed to be restored without imposing any more constraints than absolutely necessary on farmers. He also stressed the need to ensure the system's reliability by extending its application to the whole European Union without, however, increasing the weight of bureaucracy. Commissioner Fischler said that the regulation in question should provide a guarantee of origin for beef and cattle, from the farm to the consumer, in order to win the latter's confidence. This was why a compulsory cattle identification system was needed. In this respect, the Commission could not accept many of the amendments for various reasons: firstly, Mr Fischler considered that the Commission's proposal went far enough; it was also essential to avoid creating a "grey area" given that extending the definition of keeper to cover trading in animals would mean including telephone transactions in this concept; furthermore, the principle of subsidiarity had to be respected, with which the proposed harmonisation of national technical infrastructures would be incompatible. Finally, the Commission was prepared to accept Article 100a as the legal basis for the regulation in question but Mr Fischler underlined that, in this case, the current debate would amount to a first reading. As a result the Commission would be unable to act with the requisite degree of urgency in this area.

## Bovine animals: system for the identification and registration

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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. ?

## Bovine animals: system for the identification and registration

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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 (17 to 21

February 1997), 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. ?