

Procedure file

Basic information	
COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	Procedure lapsed or withdrawn
Beef: identification and registration of animals and labelling of beef and beef products	
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, Consumer Policy		24/11/1999
		GUE/NGL PAPAYANNAKIS Mihail	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	BUDG Budgets	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development		19/10/1999
		PSE KINDERMANN Heinz	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Agriculture and Fisheries	2218	15/11/1999
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Agriculture and Rural Development	FISCHER BOEL Mariann	

Key events			
13/10/1999	Legislative proposal published	COM(1999)0487	Summary
15/11/1999	Debate in Council	2218	
15/11/1999	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
13/12/1999	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
13/12/1999	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A5-0101/1999	
15/12/1999	Debate in Parliament		
16/12/1999	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T5-0174/1999	Summary

13/03/2008	Proposal withdrawn by Commission		
13/03/2008	Additional information		Summary

Technical information

Procedure reference	1999/0205(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 050; EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 152
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure lapsed or withdrawn
Committee dossier	ENVI/5/12193

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal		COM(1999)0487	13/10/1999	EC	Summary
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report		CES1136/1999 OJ C 051 23.02.2000, p. 0095	08/12/1999	ESC	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A5-0101/1999 OJ C 296 18.10.2000, p. 0018	13/12/1999	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T5-0174/1999 OJ C 296 18.10.2000, p. 0133-0182	16/12/1999	EP	Summary

Additional information

European Commission	EUR-Lex
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Beef: identification and registration of animals and labelling of beef and beef products

PURPOSE: To amend the system for identifying and registering bovine animals and the labelling of beef products.

PROPOSED ACT: European Parliament and Council Regulation.

CONTENT: Regulation 820/97 states that the Commission must present proposals for the 'general rules' governing beef labelling by 1 January 2000. This proposal is, therefore, being presented to the European Parliament and the Council in tandem with an accompanying proposal laying down the general rules for a compulsory beef labelling system. (Please refer to 1999/0204(COD)). In summary, the proposed Regulation on beef labelling, 1999/0204, establishes a compulsory system of beef labelling whereby operators and organisations marketing beef must provide certain information on labels attached to beef products. Information should include certain characteristics of the beef such as the beef's origin, where it was born, reared and slaughtered etc. Compulsory labelling should be enforced by 1 January 2003. This proposal, when adopted, repeals Regulation 820/97.

The purpose of this proposal, 1999/0205, is to amend Regulation 820/97 by prolonging the existing provisions for labelling to take account of the time needed for the new proposal to be adopted under the co-decision procedure. Given that adoption of the first proposal is expected to take no longer than 14 months, the Commission proposes that the temporary prolongation should not run beyond 1 January 2001. Failure to adopt the amendment would result in a situation whereby the compulsory labelling system, based on Regulation 820/97, would come into force on 1 January 2000 with no general rules to guide it. Further, in prolonging the existing provisions set out in Regulation 820/97, an unsatisfactory and uncertain situation for beef consumers and beef operators would be avoided.

However, should the Council and Parliament fail to come to a decision before 31 December 1999, the Commission reserves the right to present to the Council an urgent proposal to be adopted by the end of 1999. Such a proposal would be made in order to avoid a legal void through the automatic lapse in the voluntary system.

Another feature of the proposal is that the Commission is proposing to change the legal basis of the proposal from Article 43 of the TEU to Article 153 of the new Treaty given that this Article has, as its objective, the protection of public health.

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In adopting the report by Mr. Mihail PAPAYANNAKIS (UEG/NGL GR), the European Parliament called for the system for the labelling of beef and beef products to be implemented and be compulsory in all the Member States starting from the 01.09.2000. The optional labelling system shall apply until 31.08.2000. Furthermore, the Parliament believes that the elements of information such as the code, the reference digits (which may be the identification number of the animal concerned) as well as the place of slaughter should be compulsory from 01.01.2000. The Parliament asks the Member States who have a sufficiently developed identification and registration system for bovine animals to be able to introduce this system in the form of a compulsory labelling system, from before 01.09.2000, i.e. a compulsory labelling system of bovine meat coming from animals born, fed and slaughtered on their territory. Lastly, the European Parliament considers that Article 152 of the EC Treaty (public health protection) is the appropriate legal base for this Regulation.?

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As announced in Official Journal C 68 of 13 March 2008, the Commission decided to withdraw this proposal, which had become obsolete.