


Procedure file

Basic information	
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2000/2321(INI)
Monitoring the BSE crisis with regard to public health and food safety	Procedure completed
Subject	
3.10.08.05 Animal diseases	
4.60.04.04 Food safety	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	ENVI Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy		12/03/2001
		ELDR OLSSON Karl Erik	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development		27/03/2001
		V/ALE AUROI Danielle	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Agriculture and Fisheries	2387	20/11/2001
	Agriculture and Fisheries	2343	24/04/2001

Key events			
18/01/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
24/04/2001	Debate in Council	2343	
20/11/2001	Debate in Council	2387	Summary
19/12/2001	Vote in committee		Summary
19/12/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0467/2001	
05/02/2002	Debate in Parliament		
06/02/2002	Decision by Parliament	T5-0047/2002	Summary
06/02/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
21/11/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2000/2321(INI)

Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENVI/5/14259

Documentation gateway

Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	A5-0467/2001	19/12/2001	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T5-0047/2002 OJ C 284 21.11.2002, p. 0122-0199 E	06/02/2002	EP	Summary

Monitoring the BSE crisis with regard to public health and food safety

The Council took note of a statement from Commissioner BYRNE on the state of play on BSE control and confirmed its determination to keep a close watch on any significant developments. Commissioner BYRNE's briefing focused on the following: the emergence of BSE in certain third countries and the measures they should be encouraged to take, the treatment of risk material, in particular the possibility of raising the age of cattle subject to spinal column removal, the special measures to be taken to prevent any risk of BSE in sheep and the problem of how to dispose of accumulated stocks of meat and bone meal and rendered fat.?

Monitoring the BSE crisis with regard to public health and food safety

The committee adopted the own-initiative report by Karl Erik OLSSON (ELDR, S) sharply criticising certain Member States for their inadequate and late implementation of Community BSE legislation and calling on the Commission to compile a report on Member States' performance in this area. It pointed out that, despite the 1994 ban on feeding mammalian meat-and-bone to ruminants, new cases of BSE were still occurring, showing that ruminant feed had been contaminated. The committee also argued that the EU should without delay ban the feeding of animals with products derived from their own species and ensure that feed for ruminants, omnivores and intermediate species was kept separated. In view of the dismal track record, the Council was urged not to lift the ban on feeding meat-and bone meal to omnivores in the foreseeable future. Existing stocks of meat-and-bone meal and feed containing such meal should be destroyed. The committee also repeated its call for the removal of all livestock herds from the food chain where a case of BSE was confirmed, seeing this as a radical solution in the fight against epidemics and as an appropriate strategy for combating BSE. Members felt that the Commission's Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) should become the EU authority responsible for monitoring Member States' food legislation as well as their implementation of and compliance with Community legislation. The FVO must be given powers to instruct the Member States' authorities to adopt immediate measures, where necessary, to protect the health and safety of consumers. The Commission must have the right to impose penalties on Member States which failed to implement EU legislation on feed and foodstuffs adequately, and on multinationals which infringed such legislation. Finally, the Commission was called on to investigate fully the possible link between calf feed and BSE, given the most recent cases in Denmark and Finland, and to take the necessary steps to ensure that animal feed was not contaminated with BSE.?

Monitoring the BSE crisis with regard to public health and food safety

The European Parliament adopted the resolution based on its own-initiative report drafted by Karl Erik OLSSON (ELDR, Sweden) on monitoring BSE. (Please refer to the text dated 19/12/01). Parliament stressed the importance of taking the precautionary principle into account and considered that the Commission must continuously monitor new research findings and take them into consideration. Member States must step up their monitoring of how BSE testing is carried out, ensure compliance with the temporary ban on MBM and the removal of specified risk material, and to impose stiffer penalties in the event of non-compliance with the relevant rules. The Commission must promote the development of innovative methods for disposal and recycling of slaughter waste, such as the production of biodiesel from tallow or fats.?