


Procedure file

Basic information		
CNS - Consultation procedure Decision	1989/0198(CNS)	Procedure completed
Protection of animals: European Convention on vertebrates used for experimental purposes		
Subject 4.20.02.06 Clinical practice and experiments		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	PSE BOWE David Robert	04/11/1994
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	JURI Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights	PSE GEBHARDT Evelyne	26/07/1994
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Environment	2076	23/03/1998

Key events			
10/07/1989	Legislative proposal published	COM(1989)0302	Summary
11/09/1989	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
27/09/1989	Vote in committee		
11/10/1989	Decision by Parliament	T3-0070/1989	Summary
09/09/1994	Amended legislative proposal for reconsultation published	COM(1994)0366	Summary
11/04/1995	Formal reconsultation of Parliament		
18/07/1995	Vote in committee		Summary
18/07/1995	Committee report tabled for plenary, reconsultation	A4-0196/1995	
18/09/1995	Debate in Parliament		
19/09/1995	Decision by Parliament	T4-0386/1995	Summary
16/07/1996	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(1996)0293	Summary

23/03/1998	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
23/03/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
24/08/1999	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1989/0198(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	International agreement
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	EC before Amsterdam E 100A; EC before Amsterdam E 228-p2/3-a1; Rules of Procedure EP 52-p1
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENVI/4/06550; ENVI/3/01169

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal	COM(1989)0302 OJ C 200 05.08.1989, p. 0008	10/07/1989	EC	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading	T3-0070/1989 OJ C 291 20.11.1989, p. 0036-0043	11/10/1989	EP	Summary
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1122/1989 OJ C 329 30.12.1989, p. 0010	18/10/1989	ESC	Summary
Amended legislative proposal for reconsultation	COM(1994)0366	09/09/1994	EC	Summary
Committee final report tabled for plenary, reconsultation	A4-0196/1995 OJ C 269 16.10.1995, p. 0010	18/07/1995	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament after reconsultation	T4-0386/1995 OJ C 269 16.10.1995, p. 0029-0038	19/09/1995	EP	Summary
Modified legislative proposal	COM(1996)0293 OJ C 266 13.09.1996, p. 0015	16/07/1996	EC	Summary

Final act

[Decision 1999/575](#)
[OJ L 222 24.08.1999, p. 0029](#) Summary

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This proposal, which was amended prior to the European Parliament delivering its opinion, is designed to introduce a reservation in the proposal for a decision concluding, on behalf of the Community, the European Convention for the protection of vertebrates used for experimental purposes. The principles and objectives of this convention, which a majority of Member States has now signed or ratified, were communitarised by a Council directive on the protection of vertebrates (Directive 86/609/EEC). Under this directive, the Community harmonises the legislative, regulatory and administrative provisions on the protection of vertebrates in order to prevent distortions of competition among Member States. It has emerged that this Community directive does not provide for the compulsory annual communication of statistical data required under Article 28 of the convention. However, the convention does allow for a reservation in this respect (Article 34). The directive would have to be amended in order to comply with the obligation under the convention to communicate annual statistics. However, given how difficult it would be for the Member States to forward these statistics every year, the Community will have to apply the reservation provided to this end in the convention, thus avoiding having to amend the directive. The purpose of the modified proposal is as follows: to approve the Convention on vertebrates subject to Article 28(1), which requires the contracting states to communicate statistical data on the number and categories of animals used for experimental purposes.?

Protection of animals: European Convention on vertebrates used for experimental purposes

The Committee adopted the report of Mr. David BOWE (UK, PES) on the amended proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the Community, of the European Convention for the protection of vertebrate animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes. This convention was signed in 1986 and entered into force in 1991, but has not yet been ratified by the Community. The Convention requires annual communication of statistical data. But the EU Directive covering this area requires only communication of these data in every three year. The Commission proposes that the EU asks for a derogation as regards the annual communications of statistical data. But a derogation is possible according to Article 34 of the Convention. As some Member States are not able to provide statistical data every year, there is now an informal agreement to report every two year. Rapporteur BOWE is of the opinion that this informal agreement should be formalised and saw his amendments to this aim adopted this morning. After a transition period of 6 years (=3 reporting periods), however, the Member States should be obliged to report annually. By then, they have had enough time to adopt the necessary national legislation. Mr. BOWE said this morning that in the first report on 1991 almost 12 millions of animals were used for experimental purposes, among which 55% were mice, 27% rat, 5% birds, 4% guinea pigs, 4% fish and 0,07% primates. He added that Belgium and Luxembourg did not provide the requested information and that the presented figures might underestimate the total number of used animals as not all laboratories in the Member states reported well their number of used animals due to the fact that it was the first time that data were collected. The rapporteur was quite pleased with the outcome of the vote. "I think we have reached a good agreement. The Committee has adopted my amendments, for instance on the reduction of animal use in experimentation of 50% by the year 2000, on the use of primates for testing and experimental use which leads to the catch of a multifold of primates in wilderness due to enormous losses during catching and transport and on the enormous suffering the use of primates for testing en experimental use implies. We do have ethical grounds to reduce these tests with all possible means". ?

Protection of animals: European Convention on vertebrates used for experimental purposes

The European Parliament approved the proposal for a decision with the following modifications: - contrary to the proposal put forward by the Council, Parliament took the view that the Community should not use the reserve provided for under Article 34 of the Convention and believed that the EU should effectively provide statistical data every 2 years in accordance with Article 28 of the Convention. After a transition period of 6 years (and therefore not beyond the year 2000) the Community would be bound by this obligation on an annual basis (and not every 3 years as presently provided for by the current EU Directive). Parliament justified this option in the recitals to the proposal by maintaining that the Community should make greater efforts to develop alternative methods to animal testing and that in this regard the exchange of data in this area should be maintained as far as possible in order that certain experiments were not repeated unnecessarily. In the same context Parliament stressed that although the action programme to promote the environment sought to reduce animal experimentation by 50% between then and the year 2000, this objective should not prevent more ambitious targets from being specified and pursued; - at the same time Parliament called on all EU Member States to make arrangements to ensure that all instruments needed for the approval of the Convention were in place by 01.01.2000 at the latest. ?

Protection of animals: European Convention on vertebrates used for experimental purposes

The Commission's amended proposal incorporates six of the seven amendments adopted by Parliament in plenary. Essentially, the Commission has inserted the changes into the recitals to the proposal, which emphasize the need to reduce animal testing. Specifically, these recitals call for the reduced use of primates in experiments, the development of validated alternative methods to reduce animal testing and international cooperation to avoid duplication of identical experiments. Parliament's amendment calling for statistics on the number of animals used in experiments to be reported every two years until the year 2000, and annually after that date, has also been incorporated into the amended proposal in the form of an amendment to the text concerning the Community reservation. The Commission considers that a two-yearly collection of data until the year 2000 will allow Member States time to prepare for annual data collection. ?

Protection of animals: European Convention on vertebrates used for experimental purposes

The Community approved the European Convention for the protection of vertebrate animals used for experimental and other scientific

purposes. ?