Procedure file

Basic information

RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	2018/2774(RSP)	Procedure completed
Resolution on Lyme disease (Borreliosis) Subject 4.20.01 Medicine, diseases		

Key players

	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
European Parliament	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety		10/04/2018
		PETERLE Alojz	10/04/2018
			10/04/2018
			10/04/2018
		SÂRBU Daciana Octavia	10/04/2018
			10/04/2018
		WIŚNIEWSKA Jadwiga	
		RIES Frédérique	
		RIVASI Michèle	
		D'ORNANO Mireille	
		GODDYN Sylvie	
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Health and Food Safety	ANDRIUKAITIS Vytenis Povilas	

Key events

15/11/2018	Results of vote in Parliament		

15/11/2018	Debate in Parliament		
15/11/2018	Decision by Parliament	T8-0465/2018	Summary
15/11/2018	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2018/2774(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Debate or resolution on oral question/interpellation
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 136-p5
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENVI/8/12710

Documentation gateway

Amendments tabled in committee		PE623.901	28/06/2018	EP	
Oral question/interpellation by Parliament		B8-0417/2018	12/11/2018	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B8-0514/2018	15/11/2018	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T8-0465/2018	15/11/2018	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2019)43	11/03/2019	EC	

Resolution on Lyme disease (Borreliosis)

The European Parliament adopted a resolution tabled by the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety on Lyme disease (Borreliosis).

The resolution was tabled by the EPP, S&D, ECR, ALDE, and Greens/EFA groups.

Noting that there is no European consensus on the treatment, diagnosis and screening of Lyme disease, Parliament expressed its concern at the alarming proportions of the spread of Lyme disease in the European population, with around 1 million citizens suffering from the disease according to the census methods used.

Whilst welcoming the funding allocated to date by the Union for research into the early detection and future treatment of Lyme borreliosis (some EUR 16 million through projects such as ANTIDotE, ID-LYME and LYMEDIADEX), Members called for additional funding of the methods for diagnosing and treating Lyme disease.

They asked the Commission to draw up a European plan to combat Lyme disease that is commensurate with the seriousness of this silent epidemic, and encouraged the set-up of a European network on Lyme disease that includes relevant stakeholders.

Members noted that the true burden of Lyme borreliosis in the EU is unknown due to the lack of statistics on this disease and the very wide variety of applied case definitions, laboratory methods used and surveillance systems. Furthermore, Lyme disease is still under diagnosed, in particular because of the difficulties encountered in the detection of symptoms and the absence of appropriate diagnostic tests. Under these circumstances, Parliament called on the Commission to:

- collect as much information as possible on Lyme disease screening methods or on treatments administered in the Member States;
- facilitate cooperation and the exchange of best practices among Member States in terms of the monitoring, diagnosis and treatment of Lyme disease;
- put in place uniform surveillance programmes and to work together with the Member States on facilitating the standardisation of diagnostic tests and treatments;
- recognise borreliosis as an occupational disease for agricultural and forestry workers, as well as for field scientists (such as biologists, geologists, surveyors or archaeologists);
- publish guidelines based on best practices within the EU with regard to the training of general practitioners so as to facilitate the diagnosis and screening of Lyme disease;
- introduce preventive tests and a method for rapidly treating and monitoring the course of Lyme borreliosis infections among professionals in the agroforestry sector and scientists involved in gathering field data.

Parliament recalled that all Member States, to varying degrees, are experiencing an upsurge in Lyme borreliosis, and called for mandatory reporting in all Member States for promoting individual tick prevention and control measures in order to contain the spread of the Borrelia bacteria.

It also asked Member States, with the Commissions support, to set up an information and awareness campaign to alert the population and all those concerned to the existence of Lyme disease, first and foremost in the regions most affected by its spread.

Lastly, Parliament welcomed Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/945 on the communicable diseases and related special health issues to be covered by epidemiological surveillance as well as relevant case definitions that includes Lyme neuroborreliosis in the communicable diseases list.