COMMISSION DECISION

of 30 March 1977

concerning certain measures to prevent the spread of classical swine fever

(77/268/EEC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Having regard to the Council Directive of 26 June 1964 on animal health problems affecting intra-Community trade in bovine animals and swine [1], as last amended by the Council Directive of 21 December 1976 [2], and in particular Article 9 (4) thereof,

Having regard to the Council Directive of 12 December 1972 on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in fresh meat [3], as last amended by the Council Directive of 21 December 1976, and in particular Article 8 (4) thereof,

Whereas, by its Decision of 22 March 1977 [4], the Commission adopted measures requiring the Member States to prohibit the introduction into their territory of live pigs and of fresh pigmeat originating in the Netherlands, owing to the outbreak of an epidemic of classical swine fever in that country; whereas these measures are limited to a period which expires on 30 March 1977;

Whereas the situation has developed in such a way that the aforesaid measures may be to some extent relaxed;

Whereas, although outbreaks of swine fever are still appearing, they are situated largely in a well delineated zone which is subject to animal health measures (notably a ban on the exit of live pigs or of pigmeat to all other parts of Netherlands territory);

Whereas for this reason the zone in question, which is practically the sole source for the spread of swine fever virus, may be considered as sufficiently isolated;

Whereas, moreover, the other regions of the Netherlands are subject to equally severe animal health measures taken by the Netherlands authorities, in particular in relation to the movement of animals and their slaughter; whereas these measures may be considered to offer sufficient safeguards;

Whereas, there is accordingly no reason to maintain the prohibition affecting those regions, at least as far as pigmeat is concerned: whereas live animals present a greater and more direct risk than fresh meat and the prohibition measures in this respect should therefore be prolonged for a certain period, and in relation to the whole of the Netherlands territory;

Whereas provision should be made requiring that the certificate of health accompanying the fresh meat include a special entry certifying compliance with the measures provided for in this Decision;

Whereas the measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Veterinary Committee,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Member States shall prohibit until 6 April 1977 the introduction into their territory of live pigs from the Netherlands.

From 31 March 1977 the Netherlands may dispatch to other Member States fresh meat of pigs, provided that the animals in question were slaughtered after 30 March 1977 and did not originate from:

— the coastal region of the North Sea delineated by the following waters: Haringvliet — Hollandsch Diep — Amer — Bergsche Maas — Maas — Maas-Waalkanaal — Waal-Pannerdenkanaal — IJssel — Ketelmeer — Vossemeer — Drontenmeer — Veluwemeer — Eemmeer — Gooimeer — IJmeer — IJ — Noordzeekanaal,

— regions subject to prohibition measures prescribed by the Netherlands authorities.

Article 2

The health certificate as required under the Council Directive of 26 June 1964, accompanying fresh pigmeat dispatched from the Netherlands, must contain the following entry:

'Meat complying with the Commission Decision of 30 March 1977.'

[1] OJ No 121, 29. 7. 1964, p. 1977/64.
[2] OJ No L 26, 31. 1. 1977, p. 81.
[3] OJ No L 302, 31. 12. 1972, p. 24.
[4] OJ No L 78, 26. 3. 1977, p. 22.

Article 3

The Commission shall follow the development of the situation and may amend this Decision in the light of such development.

Article 4

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 30 March 1977.

For the Commission

Finn GUNDELACH

Vice-President