COMMISSION DECISION

of 20 July 1977

amending Decision 77/268/EEC on certain measures to prevent the spread of classical swine fever

(77/498/EEC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Having regard to Council Directive 72/461/EEC of 12 December 1972 on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in fresh meat (1), as last amended by Council Directive 77/98/EEC of 21 December 1976 (2), and in particular Article 8 (4) thereof,

Whereas, as a result of the outbreak of classical swine fever in the Netherlands, the Commission, by Decision 77/253/EEC of 22 March 1977 (3), adopted measures requiring the Member States totally to prohibit the introduction into their territory of pigs and fresh meat of pigs originating in that country;

Whereas, by Decision 77/268/EEC of 30 March 1977 (4), as last amended by Decision 77/358/EEC of 11 May 1977 (5), the Commission adopted measures providing for the progressive relaxation of this prohibition;

Whereas it is now necessary to settle the question of meat produced before 22 March 1977, which may not be admitted to intra-Community trade as a result of the Decision taken by the Commission on that date;

Whereas, having regard to the studies made by the Commission and to the evolution of the epidemic of swine fever in the Netherlands, it is justified partially to liberate such meat;

Whereas the obligation to include a special entry on the health certificate certifying that the meat complies with the relevant Community Decisions must be limited to a period determined having regard to the probable rate of disposal of existing stocks and to the period within which it is desirable that the meat in question be marketed;

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

Article 1 (2) of Decision 77/268/EEC is amended to read as follows:

'2 (a) in the case of meat produced before 22 March 1977, the Netherlands may dispatch to other Member States only fresh meat of pigs slaughtered before 1 March 1977;

(b) in the case of meat produced after 22 March 1977, the Netherlands may send to the other Member States only fresh meat of pigs admitted to intra-Community trade in application of the present Decision, as successively amended by Decisions 77/293/EEC of 18 April 1977, 77/345/EEC of 3 May 1977 and 77/358/EEC of 11 May 1977, that is to say, in particular, meat from pigs slaughtered:

— after 30 March 1977 and originating in regions of zone 1 of the Netherlands that is to say in a zone other than zone 2 or 3,
— after 3 May 1977 and originating in zone 2,
— after 10 May 1977 and originating in zone 3.'

Article 2

The first paragraph of Article 2 of Decision 77/268/EEC is amended to read as follows:

'Until 1 November 1977 the health certificate as required under the Council Directive of 26 June 1964 accompanying fresh pigmeat dispatched from the Netherlands in accordance with this Decision must contain the following entry:

(1) OJ No L 302, 31. 12. 1972, p. 24.
(2) OJ No L 26, 31. 1. 1977, p. 81.
(3) OJ No L 78, 26. 3. 1977, p. 22.
(4) OJ No L 87, 5. 4. 1977, p. 34.
(5) OJ No L 123, 17. 5. 1977, p. 28.

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

Article 3

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 20 July 1977.

For the Commission

Finn GUNDELACH

Vice-President