II

(Acts whose publication is not obligatory)

COMMISSION

COMMISSION DECISION
of 29 July 1977
setting up an Advisory Committee on Feedingstuffs

(77/532/EEC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Whereas the feedingstuffs sector is of considerable importance for the development of stock rearing in the Community;

Whereas it is necessary to integrate the factors which govern the production, marketing and consumption of feedingstuffs and to consult trade circles and consumers on these matters;

Whereas the professional and trade associations concerned with farming, industry, commerce and workers' interests and also consumer associations in the Member States have established organizations at Community level,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

1. There is hereby attached to the Commission an Advisory Committee on Feedingstuffs, hereinafter called 'the Committee'.

2. The Committee shall consist of representatives of the following interests: agricultural producers, agricultural cooperatives, industry, trade, workers and consumers.

Article 2

The Committee shall set up:

— a standing working group on statistics,

— a standing working group on proteins,

— a standing working group on dehydrated fodder.

The Committee may set up other working groups to assist it in carrying out its work.

Article 3

1. The Committee may be consulted by the Commission on any problem concerning the production, marketing or consumption of feedingstuffs.

It shall organize and prepare the work of the standing groups and of the other working groups. It shall ensure that each group is composed solely of representatives of the sectors most directly concerned with the subject or subjects to be examined by that group.

2. The standing working group on statistics shall be responsible for examining the problems of supply and demand in the feedingstuffs sector.

3. The standing group on proteins shall be responsible for examining the problems of the Community's protein supplies.

4. The standing working group on dehydrated fodder shall be responsible for examining the application of the rules on the common organization of the market in dehydrated fodder, and in particular the measures which the Commission takes under these rules.

5. The working groups shall report to the Committee on the results of their work.

The working groups shall appoint a chairman and a rapporteur.

6. The chairman of the Committee may indicate to the Commission the desirability of consulting the Committee on any matter within the latter's competence but on which its opinion has not been sought. He shall do so, in particular, at the request of one of the interests represented.

Article 4

1. The Committee shall comprise 26 members.

2. Seats on the Committee shall be allocated as follows :

— 13 to producers and to agricultural cooperatives, including five to agricultural cooperatives,
— four to industry,
— three to trade,
— three to workers,
— three to consumers.

Article 5

1. Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Commission on proposals from the trade and workers' organizations set up at Community level which are most representative of the interests specified in Article 1 (2); nevertheless, the consumers' representatives shall be appointed on a proposal from the Consumers' Advisory Committee set up by the Commission Decision of 25 September 1973.

The said bodies shall put forward two candidates of different nationality in respect of each seat to be filled, each from a different Member State of the Community.

2. The term of office of a member of the Committee shall be three years and shall be renewable. Members shall not be remunerated for their services.

After the expiry of the three-year period, members of the Committee shall remain in office until they are replaced or until their appointments are renewed.

A member's term of office may be terminated before the expiry of the three-year period by resignation or death.

It may also be terminated when the body which proposed him requests that he be replaced.

He shall then be replaced for the remainder of the said term of office in accordance with the procedure laid down in paragraph 1.

3. A list of the members shall be published by the Commission for information purposes in the *Official Journal of the European Communities.*

Article 6

The Committee shall elect a chairman and two vice-chairmen for a term of three years. On a first ballot the elections shall require a two-thirds majority of the members present and on subsequent ballots a simple majority of the members present.

The vice-chairmen shall be chosen from among the representatives of the interests other than that of the chairman.

The Committee may, by the same procedure, elect further officers from among the other members. In that case, the officers other than the chairman shall comprise at least one representative of each interest represented on the Committee.

The officers shall prepare and organize the work of the Committee.

Article 7

At the request of any of the interests represented, the chairman may invite a person delegated by the interest concerned to be present at meetings of the Committee.

He may also invite any person with special qualifications in any subject on the agenda to take part in an expert capacity in the work of the Committee. Such experts shall take part only in discussions of the item for which they are invited.

Article 8

1. The Committee shall be convened by the Commission and shall meet at Commission headquarters. Meetings of the officers shall be convened by the chairman in agreement with the Commission.

2. Representatives of the Commission departments concerned shall take part in meetings of the Committee, its officers and the working groups.

3. Secretarial services for the Committee, its officers and working groups shall be provided by the Commission.

Article 9

The Committee shall discuss matters on which the Commission has requested an opinion. No vote shall be taken.

The Commission may, when seeking the opinion of the Committee, set a time limit within which such opinion shall be given.

The views expressed by the various interests represented shall be included in a report forwarded to the Commission.

In the event of unanimous agreement being reached in the Committee on the opinion to be given, the Committee shall formulate joint conclusions which shall be annexed to the report.

The results of the Committee's discussions shall on request be communicated by the Commission to the Council and to the Management Committees.

Article 10

Without prejudice to Article 214 of the Treaty members of the Committee shall, if the Commission informs them that the opinion requested or the question raised is on a matter of a confidential nature, be under an obligation not to disclose information which has come to their knowledge through the work of the Committee or of its working groups.

In such cases, only Committee members and representatives of the Commission departments may be present at meetings.

Article 11

This Decision shall enter into force on 1 August 1977.

Done at Brussels, 29 July 1977.

For the Commission

Finn GUNDELACH

Vice-President