COUNCIL DECISION

of 25 July 1978

on health protection measures in respect of the Republic of Botswana

(78/642/EEC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Having regard to Council Directive 72/462/EEC of 12 December 1972 on health and veterinary inspection problems upon importation of bovine animals and swine and fresh meat from third countries (1), as last amended by Directive 77/98/EEC (2), and in particular Article 15 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas outbreaks of exotic foot-and-mouth disease have occurred in certain northern areas of the Republic of Botswana ; whereas, however, other parts of the country have been free of the disease for a number of years ;

Whereas strict measures, in particular the prohibition of movements of livestock from contaminated regions to disease-free areas, are applied in the country ; whereas the contaminated regions are clearly demarcated and separated from the disease-free areas ; whereas measures are applied throughout the country to monitor the movements of livestock and to detect any outbreak of the disease ;

Whereas contaminated regions and adjacent areas must not be allowed to export fresh meat to Member States ; whereas, having regard to the present location of the disease, to the measures adopted by the authorities of the Republic of Botswana against the disease and to the information obtained by Community veterinary experts sent to inquire into the organization of veterinary services and animal health controls, the country may be authorized to export to the Community fresh meat obtained from animals originating in regions which have been free of foot-and-mouth disease for a number of years ;

Whereas the animal health requirements of Member States pursuant to Article 16 of Directive 72/462/EEC relating to imports of meat from Botswana have not yet been laid down at Community level and enter into force only two years after their adoption ; whereas, pending the entry into force of such requirements, the Member States are free to prohibit imports of fresh meat from Botswana ;

Whereas, since the Standing Veterinary Committee has not given its assent, the Commission is unable to adopt the provisions which it had envisaged on this matter under the procedure provided for in Article 29 of Directive 72/462/EEC,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION :

Article 1

The prohibition provided for in Article 14 (2) of Directive 72/462/EEC shall not apply to the following districts of the Republic of Botswana : Kweneng, Kgatlend, South-East, Southern and Kgalagadi.

Article 2

If a Member State authorizes the importation into its own territory of fresh meat exclusively from de-boned carcases of animals of the bovine species originating in the districts referred to in Article 1 and slaughtered in one of these districts, the following conditions shall apply :

— the meat shall satisfy the requirements of the specimen health certificate annexed hereto ; the certificate shall accompany the meat during transport to the importing Member State,

— the meat shall not enter the importing Member State's territory for at least 21 days from the date of slaughter,

— the competent authority of the Republic of Botswana shall give assurances that it will notify the importing Member State and the Commission immediately of any new outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in the country.

(1) OJ No L 302, 31. 12. 1972, p. 28.
(2) OJ No L 26, 31. 1. 1977, p. 81.

Article 3

In the light of any developments in the situation, this Decision shall be amended in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 29 of Directive 72/462/EEC.

Article 4

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 25 July 1978.

For the Council

The President

H. J. ROHR

ANNEX

ANIMAL HEALTH CERTIFICATE

For fresh meat (1) from deboned carcases (2) of bovine animals from Botswana

Reference number of the public health certificate .....

Exporting country .....

Ministry .....

Department .....

Reference .....
(Optional)

I. Identification of meat

Meat (3) of .....
(Animal species)

Nature of cuts (4) .....

Nature of packaging .....

Number of cuts or packages .....

Net weight .....

II. Origin of meat

Address and veterinary approval number of the approved slaughterhouse .....

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Address and veterinary approval number of the approved cutting plant .....

.....

III. Destination of meat

The meat will be sent from .....
(Place of loading)

to .....
(Country and place of destination)

by the following means of transport (5) .....

Name and address of consignor .....

Name and address of consignee .....

IV. Attestation of health

I, the undersigned, official veterinarian, certify that :

1. the fresh de-boned carcase meat described above :

(a) originates from cattle which :

— were born and reared in the Republic of Botswana and which, since October 1977 or since birth, have remained in one or more of the following districts : Kweneng, Kgatlend, South-East, Southern, Kgalagadi, those districts having been free of exotic foot-and-mouth disease for at least the past 12 months,

— bore, in accordance with the legal provisions, a mark indicating their region of origin,

— had not been vaccinated against foot-and-mouth disease within the past 12 months,

— on the way to the slaughterhouse did not come into contact with animals not satisfying the requirements laid down in Council Decision 78/642/EEC as regards export of their meat to a Member State, and if they were conveyed by vehicle or container, the latter was cleaned and disinfected before loading,

— when subjected to an *ante-mortem* health inspection at the slaughterhouse during the 24 hours preceding slaughter, which included examination of the mouth and feet, showed no symptom of foot-and-mouth disease,

— were slaughtered after the entry into force of Council Decision 78/642/EEC (date of slaughter :.....);

(b) was obtained in a slaughterhouse in which no case of exotic foot-and-mouth disease has been detected for at least three months;

(c) has been kept strictly separate from meat not conforming to the requirements for export to a Member State laid down in Council Decision 78/642/EEC;

(d) has had as many lymphatic glands as possible removed;

(e) originates from carcases which were matured at an ambient temperature of more than + 2 °C for at least 48 hours after slaughter and before de-boning.

2. During the period between arrival of the cattle at the slaughterhouse and completion of the packing of the meat of the same cattle for export to a Member State in boxes or cartons, no animal or meat not conforming to the requirements laid down in Council Decision 78/642/EEC as regards export of meat to a Member State (with the exception of meat packed in boxes or cartons and kept in special storage areas) was present in the slaughterhouse or cutting plant.

Done at ....., on .....

.....
(Signature of official veterinarian)

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(1) 'Fresh meat' means all parts of domestic bovine animals fit for human consumption which have not undergone any preserving process; however, chilled and frozen meat shall be considered to be fresh meat.

(2) 'Carcase' means the whole body of a slaughtered animal after bleeding, evisceration, removal of the limbs at the carpus and tarsus, removal of the head, tail and mammary gland and in addition, in the case of bovine animals, after skinning.

(3) Only fresh de-boned carcase meat of bovine animals from which the major accessible lymphatic glands have been removed is authorized for importation.

(4) Fresh carcase meat is authorized for importation only if all bones have been removed.

(5) For railway wagons or lorries, the vehicle registration number should be stated, for aircraft the flight number and for vessels the name.