COUNCIL DECISION

of 26 March 1980

amending Commission Decision 79/277/EEC as regards animal health conditions governing the import of masseter muscles from Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay

(80/377/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 Articles 16 and 28 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas animal health conditions concerning imports of fresh meat from Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay were laid down by Commission Decisions 78/693/EEC, 78/694/EEC and 78/695/EEC (3) respectively, as amended by Decision 79/18/EEC (4), and from Paraguay by Commission Decision 79/238/EEC (5);

Whereas difficulties exist in the application of Article 20 (k) of Directive 72/462/EEC which have still to be resolved; whereas, in order not to disrupt existing trade patterns, Member States should be allowed, on a temporary basis, to continue to authorize imports of whole masseter muscles of bovine animals;

Whereas Commission Decisions 79/277/EEC (6) and 79/654/EEC (7) provide for such temporary authorizations; whereas a further period is necessary to resolve the difficulties referred to above; whereas the Commission has made the necessary proposals;

Whereas, since the Standing Veterinary Committee has not given its assent, the Commission has been unable to adopt the provisions 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

Decision 79/277/EEC shall be amended as follows:

1. In Articles 1, 2, 3 and 4, the date '31 December 1979' shall be replaced by '31 December 1980'.
2. The following shall be inserted as Article 5a:

'Article 5a

Pending the adoption of complete Community measures in the area of hygiene, Articles 1, 2, 3 and 4 shall apply without prejudice to the national provisions of Member States relating to the protection of public health.'

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 26 March 1980.

For the Council

The President

G. MARCORA

(1) OJ No L 302, 31. 12. 1972, p. 28.
(2) OJ No L 26, 31. 1. 1977, p. 81.
(3) OJ No L 236, 28. 8. 1978, pp. 19, 29 and 37.
(4) OJ No L 7, 11. 1. 1979, p. 31.
(5) OJ No L 53, 3. 3. 1979, p. 33.
(6) OJ No L 65, 15. 3. 1979, p. 32.
(7) OJ No L 186, 24. 7. 1979, p. 42.