COUNCIL DECISION

of 19 October 1981

on the designation and operation of a liaison laboratory for classical swine fever

(81/859/EEC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Having regard to Council Directive 80/217/EEC of 22 January 1980 introducing Community measures for the control of classical swine fever [1], and in particular Article 11 (2) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament [2],

Whereas the measures provided for in Directive 80/217/EEC require the harmonization of laboratory methods and procedures for diagnosing classical swine fever;

Whereas the antigens and various substances needed to make such diagnoses in national laboratories should have the same properties;

Whereas the task of liaising between the laboratories responsible in the Member States for diagnosing classical swine fever should be entrusted to a highly specialized laboratory with the necessary facilities for preparing and storing essential biological substances,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Liaison between the national laboratories working on swine fever shall be conducted by the laboratory of the 'Institut für Virologie der Tierärztlichen Hochschule Hannover'.

Article 2

The duties of the liaison laboratory designated in Article 1 shall be:

1. To coordinate the methods employed in the Member States for diagnosing classical swine fever, specifically by:
   (a) storing and supplying cell cultures for use in diagnosis;
   (b) typing, storing and supplying strains of classical swine fever virus for serological tests and the preparation of anti-serums;
   (c) supplying standardized serums, conjugate serums and other reference reagents to the national laboratories in order to standardize the tests and reagents employed in the Member States;
   (d) building up and holding a classical swine fever virus collection;
   (e) organizing periodic comparative tests at Community level;
   (f) gathering data and information on the methods of diagnosis used and the results of tests carried out;
2. To make the necessary arrangements for training or re-training experts in laboratory diagnosis with a view to harmonizing diagnosing techniques.

Article 3

Appropriations to cover the expenditure incurred by the activities set out in Article 2 shall be included in the general budget of the European Communities (section 'Commission').

Article 4

A contract shall be drawn up between the Commission and those responsible for the laboratory named in Article 1 to ensure that the activities set out in Article 2 are carried out.

[1] OJ No L 47, 21. 2. 1980, p. 11.
[2] OJ No C 172, 13. 7. 1981, p. 107.

Article 5

The activities provided for in this Decision shall be restricted to a period of five years from the date of signature of the contract referred to in Article 4.

Before this period expires, the Council, acting on a proposal from the Commission by qualified majority, shall decide whether the said activities should be continued or whether this Decision should be amended.

Article 6

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Luxembourg, 19 October 1981.

For the Council
The President
P. WALKER