COMMISSION DECISION

of 25 November 1996

concerning certain protective measures with regard to canned tuna originating in Côte d'Ivoire

(Text with EEA relevance)

(96/662/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to the Council Directive 90/675/EEC of 10 December 1990 laying down the principles governing the organization of veterinary checks on products entering the Community from third countries [1], as last amended by Directive 96/43/EC [2], and in particular Article 19 thereof,

Whereas there have been cases in the Community of humans being poisoned by botulinum;

Whereas the investigation traced this poisoning to tins of tuna imported from a factory in Côte d'Ivoire;

Whereas the presence of botulinum toxin constitutes a serious danger for human health; whereas the necessary protective measures should be adopted swiftly at Community level;

Whereas imports of canned tuna from this plant should be suspended until the Côte d'Ivoire authorities provide the requisite health guarantees;

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

Member States shall ban imports of canned tuna originating in the 'Conserves Internationales de Côte d'Ivoire' plant, No 120PP.

Article 2

Member States shall amend the measures that they apply to imports to comply with this Decision. They shall inform the Commission thereof.

Article 3

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 25 November 1996.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

[1] OJ No L 373, 31. 12. 1990, p. 1.
[2] OJ No L 162, 1. 7. 1996, p. 1.