COMMISSION DECISION

of 13 October 1998

concerning the application for a compulsory beef labelling system in France and Belgium

(notified under document number C(1998) 3050)

(Only the French and Dutch texts are authentic)

(98/595/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 820/97 of 21 April 1997 establishing a system for the identification and registration of bovine animals and regarding the labelling of beef and beef products [1], and in particular Article 19(5) thereof,

Whereas Article 19(4) of Regulation (EC) No 820/97 provides for the possibility for Member States where there is a sufficiently developed identification and registration system for bovine animals to impose, before 1 January 2000, a compulsory labelling system for beef from animals born, fattened and slaughtered on their territory;

Whereas France and Belgium have applied to the Commission for approval for a compulsory beef labelling system in accordance with paragraph 5 of this provision;

Whereas they have demonstrated that they have a sufficiently developed identification and registration system for bovine animals,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The French and Belgian requests, for the introduction of a compulsory labelling system for beef from animals born, fattened and slaughtered on their territory, are approved in accordance with Article 19(5) of Regulation (EC) No 820/97.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the French Republic and the Kingdom of Belgium.

Done at Brussels, 13 October 1998.

For the Commission
Franz FISCHLER
Member of the Commission

[1] OJ L 117, 7. 5. 1997, p. 1.