

**DIOXIN CONTAMINATION OF CERTAIN ANIMAL PRODUCTS INTENDED
FOR HUMAN OR ANIMAL CONSUMPTION**

Supplementary Information from the European Communities

1. On 11 June, the Commission adopted Decision 1999/389/EC, which confirms the extension of restrictions to bovine and pig products (originally set out in Decision 1999/368/EC, which is now revoked).
2. Also on 11 June, to further improve consumer confidence in the guarantees provided by the relevant authorities and in order to prevent deflection of trade, the Commission adopted Decision 1999/390/EC, which amends the previous decisions and lays down specific provisions for the official certificates and official declarations to be provided by Belgium for the purpose of intra-Community trade and export to third countries, and which must accompany any consignment of live animals or animal products covered by the Decisions 1999/363/EC and 1999/389/EC.
3. The above measures are a further step for the protection of both consumers and animal health, and to prevent of any form of dumping of potentially contaminated products, either within the European Communities or in third countries.
4. On 24 June, the Commission adopted Decision 1999/419/EC, which, taking account of the difficulty in tracing back the exact origin of certain Belgian products, and in particular products derived from domestic fowl between 15 January and 1 June, and from bovine animals and pigs between 15 January and 3 June, sets down the procedures to be followed where either a member State or a third country wishes to return product to Belgium. In particular, the Decision provides for the control measures to be applied by Belgium to ensure that such products remain under restriction until their destruction or until the results of analysis show that the product is not contaminated with dioxin.
5. The European Communities would like to draw attention to the results of investigations in the Netherlands, Germany and France. All potentially contaminated animal products have been traced, and are under restriction or have been destroyed.
6. The European Commission is in touch with the Belgian authorities and other member States directly concerned, and will adjust the measures to take account of any new information.
7. Third countries are constantly kept informed through regular meetings held in Brussels as well as through direct contact with their Embassies.
8. Copies of the Commission Decisions 1999/363/EC, 1999/389/EC, 1999/390/EC and 1999/419/EC can be obtained from the EC SPS Enquiry Point, or can be found on the EUR-Lex site (<http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex>).