

**QUESTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES**

Submission from Peru at the Meeting of 10-11 July 2001

Given the assurances in the White Paper that European consumers shall be provided with essential and accurate information, as well as the need stressed by Commissioner Byrne for the European Communities to re-establish public confidence in its food supply, law, science and control;

We would appreciate if the European Communities could explain:

1. Has it been determined that pure fishmeal may contain the prion which causes Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSB's) capable of causing BSE disease in ruminants?
  2. If not, why has fishmeal been temporarily prohibited in ruminant diets?
  3. Could such prohibition have an effect on higher yields, protein contents, presence of omega fatty acids, immunity or better disease resistance, fertility, general resilience, and any other capabilities and nutritional values in dairy cows, beef cattle, poultry and pigs?
  4. Have the Food and Veterinary Office in Dublin and/or the EC member States veterinary services determined that there is any conclusive data indicating that fishmeal is more cross-contaminated with mammalian meat and bone meal (MMBM) than other food ingredients?
  5. If such determination was made as the result of careful examination or other appropriate technical and scientific evaluation, has the Commission taken, by itself and/or with the cooperation of the EU Food Industry, the steps to put in place an EC fishmeal scheme to ensure elimination of the risk of any fraudulent or negligent mixing?
-