

BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY

Statement made by the European Community
at the meeting of 8-9 October 1996

At the meeting on 29-30 May, the European Community made a statement on Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy. The Community would like to take this opportunity to provide some information on recent developments.

In July, the Commission adopted Decision 96/449/EC on alternative heat treatment for processing animal waste with a view to the inactivation of spongiform encephalopathy agents. This Decision has been notified as G/SPS/N/EEC/30 of 22 July 1996.

The new heat treatment provisions will apply from 1 April 1997. However, 90 days after the Decision, Member States are required to take the necessary measures to ensure that material produced with a method which does not meet the specified parameters is used in a way which avoids the risk of transmitting BSE and/or scrapie.

The standard set by Decision 96/449 will affect imports from third countries of products including or derived from animal waste.

Further measures are being studied by the Community, and the Scientific Veterinary Committee and the Multidisciplinary Committee have been consulted.

If the Community decides to take further measures, these are likely to have an impact on third countries. The Community would, of course, notify any such measures in accordance with the SPS Agreement.