Opinion on the proposal for a Council Decision concerning the use and marketing of enzymes, micro-organisms and their preparations in animal nutrition [1]

(93/C 201/13)

On 14 April 1993 the Council decided to consult the Economic and Social Committee, under Article 198 of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, on the abovementioned proposal.

The Section for Agriculture and Fisheries, which was responsible for preparing the Committee's work on the subject, adopted its Opinion on 6 May 1993. The Rapporteur was Mr Hovgaard Jakobsen.

At its 306th Plenary Session held on 26 and 27 May 1993 (meeting of 26 May) the Economic and Social Committee unanimously adopted the following Opinion.

1.1. The Committee sees the proposed decision as a necessary and constructive move towards common rules and uniformity in this matter, to the advantage of both producers and consumers.

1.2. In the Committee's view, the proposal should help secure free trade on equal terms throughout the Community and further product development in this area, thereby impeding the marketing of sub-standard products potentially harmful to both animals and humans.

1.3. In this connection, it urges that the period of transition to common EC rules should be kept as short as possible. The 1996 and 1998 deadlines proposed by the Commission would seem too distant. (1995 and 1997 would be preferable). The dates specified in Articles 3 and 8 should be replaced by 'as soon as possible but anyway within one year from adoption of this proposal'.

1.3.1. Further, care must be taken to ensure that the transition period does not breed inappropriate loopholes or interim arrangements. Regulation is particularly necessary in this field which is in the throes of such rapid and dramatic change. Care must also be taken to ensure that the future common rules lay the foundations for effective, speedy approval of new products which it is wished to employ in this field.

1.4. Enzymes of course cease to be enzymes once they are inactivated by heat or other means and they then become ordinary proteins. Article 7 is not totally clear on this and could authorize declaration of enzymes even when they are no longer present at the point of marketing. It should therefore be amended as follows: First line change to: 'Enzymes (which are still active when the product or preparation is marketed), micro-organisms ...' Ea)—change first line to: 'The specific name of the constituent(s), active when the product is marketed ...'

[1] OJ No C 116, 27. 4. 1993, p. 6.

Done at Brussels, 26 May 1993.

The Chairman

of the Economic and Social Committee

Susanne TIEMANN