

CVO BSE 1 40

BSE: FOLLOW-UP ACTION TO OIE


1. I refer to your minute of 11 September. I have delayed responding in the hope that the overall incidence of BSE would diminish but, unfortunately, this has not yet occurred.
2. For the above reason I do not wish to push for the resumption of trade in live cattle. This can only really follow after a decision is taken within the European Community. I would not wish to push for the resumption of trade in meat and bone meal because of the lack of scientific evidence on the temperature necessary for destruction of the causal agent but pet food is a different matter. I therefore suggest that our efforts be targeted on embryos, semen, beef, meat products and pet food.
3. I have amended the draft letter to the CVOs of OIE member countries and a copy, which is on Bernie's machine, is attached. Feel free to make any further amendments which you can put back to me for final clearance.
4. Annex (B) third paragraph will require amendment in line with the general letter.
5. Annex (C) requires similar amendments but I have also made some changes to the first three paragraphs.
6. Document (D (i)) can be dropped since it relates to trade in cattle.
7. Document (D (ii)) causes me some concern in the fifth paragraph since this does not refer to the feeding of meat and bone meal but only to our ban. Can we improve this text without moving too far away from the Code conditions?

Do we need to make a more specific reference to the words "unless subsequently cleared"? They are quite specific in the terms of the Code but may not be too clear in the health declaration.
8. Document (D (iii)) does not follow the OIE Code under 3.2.13.8. In particular the reference to freedom from any clinical evidence of infectious or contagious disease is a new condition that cannot be met. You will need to refer to the Code in a more general context and find more appropriate wording.
9. Document (D (iv)) has the same problems as fresh meat.
10. Document (E (i)) needs amendment in paragraph 2 to remove cattle and I would not wish to include a reference to Ministerial correspondence in the last paragraph.
11. The letters to Syria, Brazil, Egypt and China will need similar amendment.
12. Document (F) has been fairly heavily red pencilled by me and I would be grateful if you could do some redrafting along the lines I have indicated.
13. For reasons expressed earlier document (G) can be deleted.

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Reference.....

14. You may now wish to continue your work on these documents and let me have any amendments for consideration in due course.


K C Meldrum
2 November 1992

Mr K C Taylor + 32419

cc Mr J Maslin