



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Brussels, 19 June 2009
11169/09 (Presse 185)

Council adopts new rules for the placing on the market of animal feed

The Council today adopted¹ a regulation on the placing on the market and use of feed, following a first-reading agreement with the European Parliament ([3611/1/09 REVI](#) + [10635/09 ADD1 REVI](#)). The main objective of the new regulation is to boost innovation within the feed industry and to strengthen the competitiveness of the EU livestock sector while maintaining a high level of protection for animals and European citizens.

The new regulation includes the following provisions:

¹ The decision was taken, without discussion, at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council meeting in Luxembourg.

P R E S S

- The labelling rules for feed will be aligned with those for food for human consumption. More specifically, the current requirement to state all raw materials of compound feed as a percentage of total weight on the label, with a tolerance of +/-15%, is replaced by an obligation to list the ingredients in decreasing order of weight. However, if the presence of a feed material is emphasised on the label in words, pictures or graphics, its exact percentage by weight must be indicated. At farmers request, feed producers have to provide quantitative data in a range within +/-15% of the exact quantity, as long as this does not infringe the 2004 directive on intellectual property rights. In the event of health or environmental emergencies the competent authorities may provide farmers with additional information¹. The rules for pet food do not require as much detail, but labels must carry a telephone number which pet owners can call if they seek additional information on the contents of such food.
- A new voluntary EU catalogue of feed materials will be created, designed to facilitate the exchange of information on product properties. Feed material not listed in this catalogue which is placed on the market for the first time must be notified in an on-line register.
- Nutritional claims will only be allowed as long as they are objective, understandable and scientifically substantiated. If farmers raise doubts as to the truthfulness of nutritional claims, the national authorities must verify the scientific substantiation and may submit the issue to the Commission. This will ensure that farmers do not pay for non-existent features.
- Health claims will be forbidden, except for coccidiostats and histomonostats; claims concerning nutritional imbalances such as "compensation for maldigestion" or "regulation of glucose supply (diabetes mellitus)" will however be allowed.

¹ The European Court of Justice has ruled that the requirement to provide exact information on request is disproportionate with regard to health protection. In addition, the introduction of many additional safety rules (such as the improvement of traceability, the systematic preventive approach of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) and guidelines for good hygiene practice for feed producers) have considerably increased feed safety in recent years.

- Feed used as a protein source ("bio-proteins") will not be subject to systematic pre-market authorisations any more, but only according to the risk involved.
- Feed manufacturers and feed users are invited to develop two Community codes of good labelling practice, one for pet food and one for compound feed for food producing animals. These codes should aim to make labelling more appropriate.

The new regulation, which replaces seven directives and one Commission decision, will enter into force on the twentieth day following its publication in the Official Journal of the EU and will apply twelve months after its publication.
