



ASSEMBLÉE DES RÉGIONS D'EUROPE
ASSEMBLY OF EUROPEAN REGIONS
VERSAMMLUNG DER REGIONEN EUROPAS
ASAMBLEA DE LAS REGIONES DE EUROPA
ASSEMBLEA DELLE REGIONI D'EUROPA

AER GENERAL ASSEMBLY
(Seinäjoki, 7th and 8th December 2000)

RESOLUTION ON BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (BSE)

-adopted by a majority¹-

The Assembly of European Regions, at its General Assembly on 8th December 2000 in Seinäjoki,

- is both deeply concerned and shocked in view of the recent revelations which clearly indicate that the full scope and the dangers which BSE holds for the life and health of the European citizen, have been underestimated,
- insists that more attention should be paid to the principle of the protection of the consumer,
- calls for immediate and increased research projects in order to assess, in the widest possible way, the implications of BSE,
- expresses its conviction that the BSE crisis reveals that it is absolutely essential to review the basis of agricultural production and agricultural policies,
- recognises that the objective should be the development of environmentally responsible agricultural practices and that more resources be dedicated to the promotion of organic agriculture,
- that there should be an immediate stop on feeding livestock with animal-derived feedstuffs,
- sees in the recent development a chance for small and medium agricultural production units, which would create employment in rural areas, encourage immigration, and, consequently help sustain rural economies i.e. rural post-offices shops, etc. and thus give a new impetus to rural areas,
- regards it as absolutely necessary to reassess the direction of agricultural reforms in EU candidate countries as the necessary changes due to BSE might hold new opportunities for their agriculture,

¹ One vote against, one abstention