

COUNCIL DECISION

of 22 July 2003

concerning the conclusion of the Protocol of Amendment to the European Convention for the protection of vertebrate animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes

(2003/584/EC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 95, in conjunction with Article 300(2) and the first subparagraph of Article 300(3), thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission ⁽¹⁾,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament ⁽²⁾,

Whereas:

- (1) On 24 November 1986 the Council adopted Directive 86/609/EEC on the approximation of laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States regarding the protection of animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes ⁽³⁾, setting out common rules incorporating the principles, objectives and main provisions of the European Convention of 18 March 1986 for the protection of vertebrate animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes (hereinafter referred to as the Convention).
- (2) On 23 March 1998 the Council adopted Decision 1999/575/EC concerning the conclusion by the Community of the European Convention for the protection of vertebrate animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes ⁽⁴⁾ and made a Declaration that the European Community does not consider itself bound by the requirements to communicate statistical data laid down in Article 28(1) of the said Convention. The Convention entered into force on 1 November 1998 in the territory of the Community.
- (3) The provisions contained in the Appendices to the Convention are of a technical nature and should reflect the latest scientific and technical developments and results in the research within the fields covered. It is therefore appropriate to revise these provisions periodically, through a simplified procedure.
- (4) On 22 June 1998 a Protocol of Amendment setting out a simplified procedure to amend the Appendices to the Convention has been opened for signature by the Signatories to the Convention. This Protocol of Amendment should therefore be approved,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The Protocol of Amendment to the European Convention for the protection of vertebrate animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes is hereby approved on behalf of the European Community.

The text of the Protocol of Amendment is attached to this Decision.

Article 2

The President of the Council is hereby authorised to designate the person or persons empowered to sign the Protocol of Amendment in accordance with Article 4(1)(a) thereof, in order to express the consent of the Community to be bound thereby.

Article 3

The signature by the Community shall only take place once those Member States who are also Parties to the European Convention referred to in Article 1 of this Decision have completed procedures to conclude the Protocol of Amendment pursuant to Article 4 thereof. Member States shall inform the Commission as soon as possible when they have completed the necessary procedures.

Article 4

The reservation in respect of Article 28(1) of the said Convention made by the European Community as laid down in Annex B to Decision 1999/575/EC shall remain unaltered.

Article 5

This Decision shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Done at Brussels, 22 July 2003.

For the Council

The President

G. ALEMANNO

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 25 E, 29.1.2002, p. 538-540.

⁽²⁾ Opinion of 2 July 2002 (not yet published in the Official Journal).

⁽³⁾ OJ L 358, 18.12.1986, p. 1.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 222, 24.8.1999, p. 29.

ANNEX

PROTOCOL OF AMENDMENT

to the European Convention for the protection of vertebrate animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes

Strasbourg, 22 June 1998

THE MEMBER STATES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, Signatories to this Protocol to the European Convention for the Protection of Vertebrate Animals used for Experimental and other Scientific Purposes, opened for signature in Strasbourg, on 18 March 1986 (hereinafter referred to as the Convention),

HAVING REGARD to the Convention which includes general provisions designed to safeguard animals intended to be used for scientific purposes from suffering pain and distress, and to their resolve to limit the use of animals for experimental and other scientific purposes, with the aim of replacing such use whenever possible, in particular by seeking alternative measures and encouraging the use of these alternative measures,

CONSIDERING the technical nature of the provisions included in the Appendices to the Convention,

ACKNOWLEDGING the need to ensure their consistency with the results of research in the fields covered,

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Article 30 of the Convention shall be amended as follows:

‘1. The Parties shall, within five years from the entry into force of this Convention and every five years thereafter, or more frequently if a majority of the Parties should so request, hold multilateral consultations within the Council of Europe to examine the application of this Convention, and the advisability of revising it or extending any of its provisions.

2. These consultations shall take place at meetings convened by the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe.

The Parties shall communicate the name of their representative to the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe at least two months before meetings.

3. Subject to the provisions of this Convention, the Parties shall draw up the rules of procedure for the consultations.’

Article 2

The Convention shall be supplemented by a new Part XI: ‘Amendments’ including a new Article 31 as follows:

‘1. Any amendment to Appendices A and B, proposed by a Party or the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe shall be communicated to the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe and forwarded by him to the

Member States of the Council of Europe, to the European Community and to any non-Member State which has acceded to, or has been invited to accede to the Convention in accordance with the provisions of Article 34.

2. Any amendments proposed in accordance with the provisions of the preceding paragraph shall be examined at a multilateral consultation not less than six months after the date of forwarding by the Secretary-General where it may be adopted by a two-thirds majority of the Parties. The text adopted shall be forwarded to the Parties.

3. Twelve months after its adoption at a multilateral consultation, any amendment shall enter into force unless one third of the Parties have notified objections.’

Article 3

Articles 31 to 37 of the Convention shall become Articles 32 to 38 of the Convention respectively.

Article 4

1. This Protocol shall be open for signature by the Signatories to the Convention, which may become Parties to this Protocol by:

- (a) signature without reservation as to ratification, acceptance or approval; or
- (b) signature subject to ratification, acceptance or approval, followed by ratification, acceptance or approval.

2. A Signatory of the Convention may not sign this Protocol without reservation as to ratification, acceptance or approval, or deposit an instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval, unless it has already deposited or simultaneously deposits an instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval of the Convention.

3. States which have acceded to the Convention may also accede to this Protocol.

4. The instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe.

Article 5

This Protocol shall enter into force on the 30th day after the date on which all the Parties to the Convention have become Parties to this Protocol in accordance with Article 4.

Article 6

The Secretary-General of the Council of Europe shall notify the Member States of the Council of Europe, the other Parties to the Convention and the European Community of:

(a) any signature without reservation in respect of ratification, acceptance or approval;

(b) any signature with reservation in respect of ratification, acceptance or approval;

(c) any deposit of an instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession;

(d) any date of entry into force of this Protocol in accordance with Article 5 thereof;

(e) any other act, notification or communication relating to this Protocol.

In witness thereof, the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto, have signed this Protocol.

Done at Strasbourg, this twenty-second day of June 1998, in English and in French, both texts being equally authentic, in a single copy which shall be deposited in the archives of the Council of Europe. The Secretary-General of the Council of Europe shall transmit certified copies to each Member State of the Council of Europe, to the other Parties to the Convention and to the European Community.
