

# COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 5 April 1975

Confidential  
AS/Agr (24) 43

Or. Fr.

## CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE



PACCOM043546

Motion for a Recommendation  
on methods of slaughtering meat animals  
tabled by Mr. Elvinger and others

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30.098  
01.2

The Assembly,

1. Having regard to the study by the World Federation for the Protection of Animals on the various methods used in Europe for slaughtering meat animals;
2. Noting that modern slaughter methods which spare animals unnecessary pain and suffering are not yet widely or effectively used in the member States of the Council of Europe;
3. Believing that the increasing number of intensively reared slaughter animals calls for more humane slaughter methods and more modern abattoirs;
4. Noting that the causing of fear, distress and pain to animals during slaughter can result in the quality of the meat being impaired, to the detriment of the interests of consumers;
5. Believing that not enough scientific research is being done into new methods of stunning slaughter animals before bleeding;
6. Recommends that the Committee of Ministers request member governments:
  - (a) to conclude a European Convention on the humanisation and harmonisation of slaughter methods in member States;
  - (b) to be guided during the preparation of such a Convention by:
    - (1) the spirit of the draft Convention on animal welfare in intensive rearing, now being drawn up in the Council of Europe;
    - (2) the following principles:
      - (i) a slaughter animal should be properly accommodated, fed and watered while being kept for a lengthy time at the abattoir prior to slaughter;
      - (ii) the beating of slaughter animals, particularly on sensitive parts of their bodies (head, eyes, nose etc.) should be prohibited;

- (iii) every slaughter animal should be stunned before being bled;
  - (iv) stunning should be done by means of a captive bolt stunner or by electricity or gas;
  - (v) abattoirs should be equipped with the latest technical facilities essential for effective stunning and comply with modern hygiene standards;
- (c) to take appropriate steps for the purpose of promoting scientific research into methods of stunning slaughter animals.