

**Proposal for a
RESOLUTION
of all European sheep breeding organisations**

MEPS AND EUROPEAN SHEEP AND GOAT BREEDERS CALL ON THE COMMISSION AND THE COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE MINISTERS TO REVIEW THE INTRODUCTION OF COMPULSORY INDIVIDUAL MOVEMENT RECORDING AND ELECTRONIC SHEEP IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM, AS PLANNED FOR 31.12.2009, BECAUSE OF IMPLEMENTATION DIFFICULTIES HIGH COSTS AND UNPROVEN BENEFITS.

EU Council regulation 21/2004 requires individual identification and recording of sheep and goat movements across Europe from 1st January 2010. To achieve this member states will be required to implement Electronic identification of their sheep flock.

Existing regulations on sheep and goat identification have proved to be perfectly adequate to ensure traceability and to control disease. Electronic Identification and individual movement recording far exceed what is genuinely needed.

European sheep breeding organisations therefore recommend that the Electronic Identification and individual recording movement of sheep and goats to be introduced on a **voluntary** basis only. With the compulsory obligation delayed until there is sufficient evidence that the system will not place an overbearing cost on producers.

Justification:

- The current ID and batch recording system, combined with EU and domestic movement standstills are simple, efficient and cost effective measures which help the control of animal disease. Evidence shows that compulsory EID and individual recording would not deliver significant improvement in animal disease control but would incur a massively disproportionate regulatory and financial cost.
- EID has significant practical problems that prevent the effective operation of EID in extensive livestock systems and within climatic conditions commonly experienced in northern Europe. There are also issues surrounding compatibility and the general IT literacy levels within the industry.
- The additional requirements associated with the regulation such as maintaining individual identities in a flock register are onerous and undeliverable in extensive systems due to tag loss, incomplete gathering etc and offer no benefit in disease control terms.

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