

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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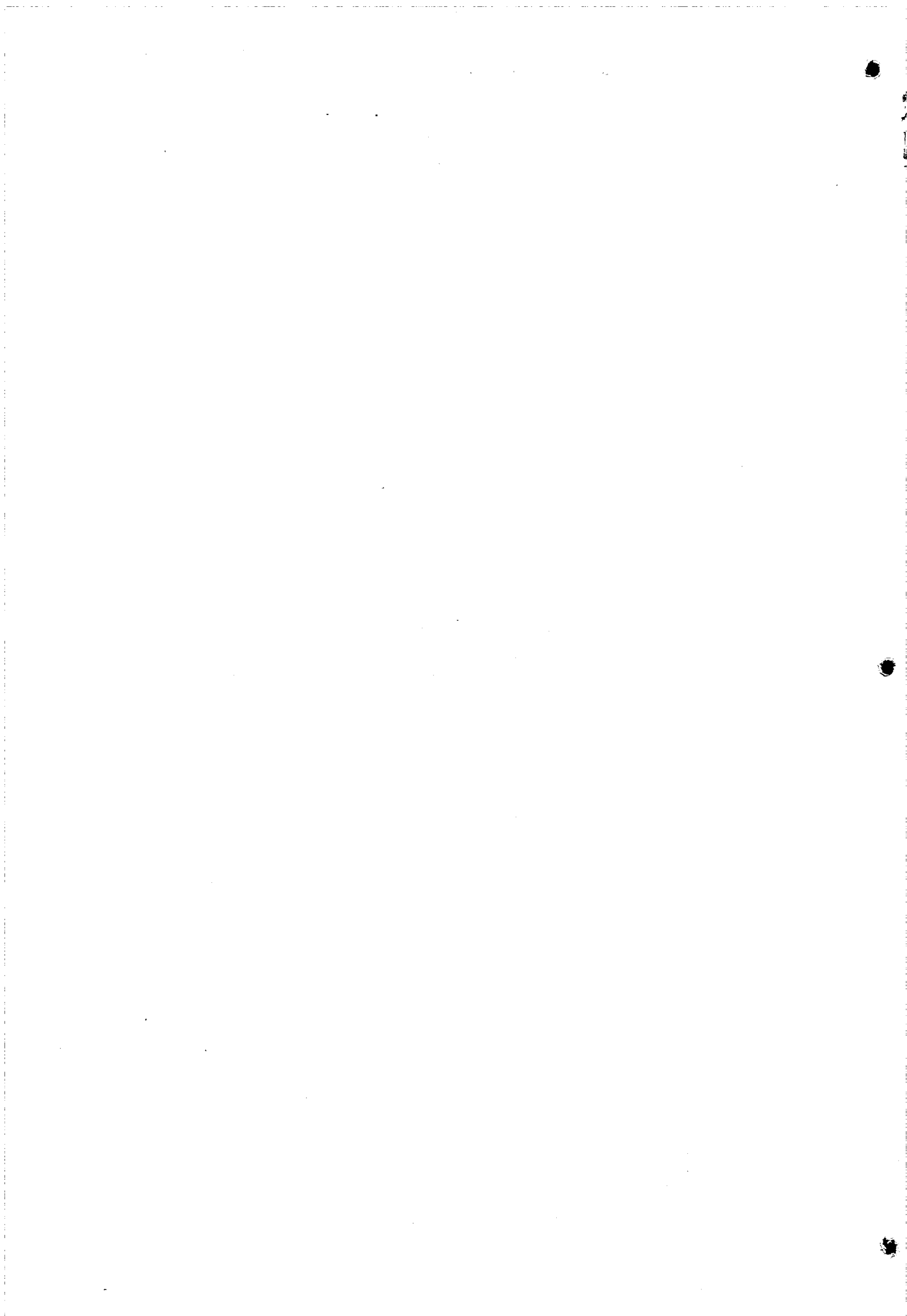
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PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL DECISION  
AUTHORIZING THE UNITED KINGDOM TO GRANT A NATIONAL  
AID TO MILK PRODUCERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

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(presented by the Commission to the Council)

COM(79) 486 final



EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

- I. Until 31.12.1977 the United Kingdom authorized, under Article 54 of the Act of Accession, to retain production subsidies under certain conditions as part of the guaranteed price system for a "standard quantity" of milk.
- II. The withdrawal of this system on 1 January 1978 was liable to place milk producers in Northern Ireland at a disadvantage compared with those in other regions of the United Kingdom. Northern Ireland is the only region of the United Kingdom where, for geographical and demographic reasons, most of the milk produced cannot be disposal of for direct human consumption, at higher prices.

The situation has been aggravated by the introduction of different representative rates for the Irish and UK pounds, which put Northern Ireland Milk producers in a particularly unfavourable economic situation.

The United Kingdom was therefore authorized, by a Council decision of 25 July 1978, to grant milk producers an aid of 1.4 pence per litre of milk delivered to creameries.

- III. There has been very little change in the economic situation in Northern Ireland since then. There is moreover still a difference - albeit reduced - between the representatives rates for the Irish pound and the UK pound and milk producers in Northern Ireland are still therefore placed at economic disadvantage.

- IV. Because of the specific economic and political situation in Northern Ireland, the temporary authorization to grant aid for milk delivered to creameries must be extended, by not withstanding Article 24 (1) of basic Regulation (EEC) n° 804/68, to cover the 1979/1980 milk year as well.

- V. As this is a national aid, it entails no Community expenditure.

Proposal  
for a Council decision  
authorizing the United Kingdom to grant a national aid to Northern  
Ireland milk producers

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THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community and in particular Articles 42 and 43 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament,

Whereas, by Decision of 25 July 1978, the United Kingdom was authorized to pay milk producers in Northern Ireland, until the end of the 1978/79 marketing year, aid of a maximum amount of 1.4 pence per litre of milk delivered to dairies;

Whereas, with the immediate withdrawal of this system milk producers in Northern Ireland are in danger of being put at a disadvantage compared to producers in the rest of the United Kingdom ;

Whereas the period of application of the system concerned should therefore be extended for one marketing year, a reduction being made in the maximum rate of aid,

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HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION :

Article 1

The United Kingdom is hereby authorized to grant milk producers in Northern Ireland, from 2 July 1979 until the end of the 1979/80 milk year, aid of a maximum amount of 1.3 pence per litre of milk delivered to dairies.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

