

# European Communities

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

## Working Documents

1974-1975

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13 November 1974

DOCUMENT 349/74

### Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Development and Cooperation

on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 331/74) laying down basic rules for the supply of skimmed milk powder as food aid to the countries of the Sahel and Ethiopia

**Rapporteur: Mr H. SEEFELD**

PE 38.688/fi



By letter of 5 November 1974 the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament to deliver an opinion on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council laying down basic rules for the supply of skimmed milk powder as food aid to the countries of the Sahel and Ethiopia.

At its meeting of 6 November 1974 the Committee on Development and Cooperation appointed Mr Seefeld rapporteur.

At the same meeting the committee considered the draft report and adopted the motion for a resolution and explanatory statement.

The following were present: Mr Deschamps and Mr Sandri, vice-chairmen; Mr Seefeld, rapporteur; Mr Broeksz, Sir Douglas Dodds-Parker (deputizing for Mr James Hill), Mr Dondelinger, Mr Durieux, Mrs Fenner, Mr Glinne, Mr Härzschel, Mr Premoli (deputizing for Mr Jozeau-Marigne) and Lord Reay.

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The Committee on Development and Cooperation hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution, together with explanatory statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council laying down basic rules for the supply of skimmed milk powder as food aid to the countries of the Sahel and Ethiopia

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (COM(74) 1687 final/B),
  - having been consulted by the Council on 5 November 1974 (Doc. 331/74),
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on Development and Cooperation (Doc. 349/74),
  - having regard to the alarming reports received from relief organizations, particularly the FAO, and in view of the steady deterioration in the food situation in the countries of the Sahel and Ethiopia,
  - in view of the Community's special responsibility towards the famine-stricken countries,
  - taking into account earlier resolutions and reports,
1. Approves the Commission's proposal for the supply of 9,000 metric tons of skimmed milk powder to the Sahel area and Ethiopia;
  2. Endorses the proposal that, if the intervention agencies' stocks of skimmed milk powder should be inadequate, the necessary amounts should be acquired on the Community market, because some deliveries must be made immediately and it is essential to ensure regularity of supply;
  3. Urges the Commission, however, to take the necessary steps to prevent large-scale disturbances on the Community market;
  4. Recommends that tenders be invited for supplying the skimmed milk powder in order to obtain the most favourable terms;
  5. Agrees with the Commission that the transport of the skimmed milk powder to its destination must be financed by the Community to ensure that the powder really reaches those who need it;

6. Hopes, moreover, that the Commission and the Council as well as the governments of the Member States will do all in their power out of sheer humanity to limit the effects of the famine in the Sahel countries and Ethiopia;
7. Urges that, in addition to an increase in food aid, the necessary action be taken to restore the ecological balance in the countries affected by the drought;
8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution and the report of its committee to the Council and Commission of the European Communities, the governments of the Member States and, for information, to the FAO.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. The drought in the Sahel countries and Ethiopia is a problem of overriding urgency, for the lives of thousands of people are at stake. With whole areas laid waste, farmers and nomads fleeing the land, entire tribes dying of starvation, and livestock decimated, the economic and social stresses are enormous. Reports are constantly being received of people and animals trying to escape the drought, which has reduced thousands of miles to a wilderness of iron-hard, sun-baked earth, where nothing can grow.
2. This drought, which has now lasted for several years along the southern edge of the Sahara, has mainly affected people in Senegal Mauretania, Mali, Niger, Upper Volta and Chad, all countries associated with the EEC. Despite climatic differences, Ethiopia is another victim of the drought.
3. The food crisis dating from the onset of the drought has now reached famine proportions in the Sahel and Ethiopia. It is impossible for these developing countries to fight the crisis from their own resources; there is virtually no hope of an increase in food production in the near future. Aid and assistance must be given immediately to prevent the already catastrophic situation from deteriorating still further.
4. Meanwhile, the countries of the Sahel and Ethiopia have announced their need for food containing dried milk. This protein-rich food can be supplied in the form of skimmed milk powder which is produced in the Community and meets specific criteria.
5. The Parliament therefore approves the Commission's proposal for the immediate supply of 9,000 metric tons of skimmed milk powder to the Sahel countries and Ethiopia. This quantity is to be allocated as follows:

Upper Volta	1,500 t
Mali	1,500 t
Mauretania	1,200 t
Niger	1,700 t
Senegal	500 t
Chad	1,000 t
Ethiopia	1,600 t

6. In the event of the intervention agencies' stocks proving inadequate the Parliament agrees with the Commission that the deficiency should be made good by purchases on the Community market, because some deliveries must be made immediately and, in any case, it is essential to ensure regularity of supply.

7. The Parliament also agrees that the transport of the consignments from the Community to the places of destination must be financed to ensure that the aid really reaches those who need it.
8. The Parliament also recommends that tenders be invited for supplying the skimmed milk powder in order to obtain the most favourable terms.
9. Apart from these supplies the Parliament hopes that close attention will continue to be paid to the other problems connected with the Community's food aid policy and that it will be informed in due course of action taken. The Commission and Council, together with the governments of the Member States, are urged once again to do everything in their power out of sheer humanity, without delay and regardless of cost, to limit the effects of the famine in the Sahel countries and Ethiopia.
10. The Parliament is convinced that every effort must be made at the same time to restore the natural environment in these areas. The Commission should not only strive to ensure more and better food supplies for the stricken areas, but also concentrate on means of restoring the ecological balance, so that the Sahel area may become habitable once again.



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