

Brussels, 28 November 1966
IP (66) 149

PRESS RELEASE

EEC Commission makes new proposals on
preservatives in foodstuffs.

The EEC Commission has just submitted to the Council three draft directives concerning additives to foodstuffs.

The purpose of one proposal is to give, under certain conditions, permanent authorization to employ diphenyl, orthophenylph₂OL and sodium orthophenylphenate for the surface treatment of citrus fruits.

According to the directive at present in force⁽¹⁾ on the approximation of Member States' legislation concerning permitted preservatives in foodstuffs for human consumption, the Member States may continue to apply, until 31 December 1966, their domestic legislation governing the surface treatment of citrus fruits with the three above-mentioned substances.

As the studies of methods of controlling the precise residual amounts of these substances in citrus fruits sold to the consumer are now complete, and as the use of these substances under certain conditions for treating the surface of citrus fruits does not constitute a health hazard, it is proposed to sanction their use until further notice, provided:

- a) That they are applied only to the surface of the citrus fruits;
- b) That when citrus fruits treated with one or more of these substances are retailed:
 - (1) The residual amount of these substances employed either singly or together does not exceed 70 mg. per kg. of citrus fruit (whole fruits);
 - (2) The fruits bear a mark or a label indicating that the treatment has been applied.

(1) Directive of the Council, 5 November 1963 (official gazette No. 12, 27 January 1964, p. 161/64, amended by Directive of the Council, 23 December 1965 (official gazette No. 222, 28 December, p. 3263/65).

According to this proposal, the Commission will specify the methods of taking samples and analysing citrus fruits to ascertain the presence and identity of preservatives in and on them; the Commission will act through the Foodstuffs Committee the establishment of which was proposed to the Council in 1965.

The Commission suggests that the Council refer the proposal to the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee.

Another proposed directive is to postpone the expiry date of the present regulations until 30 June 1967, since it has been found necessary to allow the Council more time to make a close study of the preceding proposal.

A third directive proposed is to establish the specific criteria which the three preservatives must satisfy.

The Member States must comply with the first and third directives by 1 July 1967 at the latest, and inform the Commission forthwith of the measures taken.