

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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DOCUMENT 1-108/84

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on the Environment,
Public Health and Consumer Protection

on the proposal from the Commission of the European
Communities to the Council (COM(83) 446 final -
Doc. 1-649/83) for a decision adopting a concerted
action research project on the effects of processing
and distribution on the quality and nutritive value
of food

Rapporteur: Mrs L. SEIBEL-EMMERLING

PE 88.556/fin.
Or. De.

By letter of 30 August 1983, the President of the Council of the European Communities consulted the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a decision adopting a concerted action research project on the effects of processing and distribution on the quality and nutritive value of food (COM(83) 446 final).

On 12 September 1983, the President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Budgets for an opinion.

At its meeting of 22 September 1983, the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection appointed Mrs SEIBEL-EMMERLING rapporteur.

The committee considered the Commission proposal and a draft report at its meetings of 2 February 1984 and 22 March 1984.

At the latter meeting, the committee decided unanimously to recommend that Parliament approve the Commission proposal without amendment.

The committee decided to propose that Parliament apply Rule 34 of its Rules of Procedure.

The Committee then adopted the motion for a resolution as a whole unanimously.

The following took part in the vote :

Mr COLLINS, chairman; Mr RYAN and Mrs WEBER, vice-chairmen; Mrs SEIBEL-EMMERLING, rapporteur; Mr BERKHOUWER, Mr BOMBARD, Mr CERAVOLO (deputizing for Mr SPINELLI), Mr EISMA (deputizing for Mrs SPAAK), Mr GHERGO, Mrs LENTZ-CORNETTE, Mrs NIELSEN (deputizing for Mrs SCRIVENER), Mrs SCHLEICHER and Mr VERROKEN (deputizing for Mr ALBER).

The explanatory statement will be made orally.

The opinion of the Committee on Budgets will be delivered separately.

This report was tabled on 28 March 1984.

The deadline for tabling amendments to this report will be indicated in the draft agenda for the part-session at which it will be debated.

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

closing the procedure for consultation of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a decision adopting a concerted action research project on the effects of processing and distribution on the quality and nutritive value of food

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission to the Council (COM(83) 446 final)¹,
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 235 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 1-649/83),
 - having regard to the report by the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (Doc. 1-108/84),
 - having regard to the result of the vote on the Commission's proposal,
 - not wishing to obstruct the COST programme,
1. Approves the Commission's proposal in principle;
 2. Deplores the fact that the programme was again submitted late, with the result that the time available for the discussion of its contents was inadequate;
 3. Wishes, therefore, to receive an interim report containing the main results available at the time one year before the programme expires, together with a proposal for the continuation of the project if such is the intention;
 4. Hopes that efforts will be made to incorporate the following additional objectives in the proposed programme:
 - unconditionally guaranteeing that the application of new processes will not give rise to additional waste, and will be accompanied by further research with a view to eliminate existing waste as far as possible,
 - monitoring the proposed processes with a view to reducing the amount of energy used in food processing,
 - explaining the consequences for producers, transporters, dealers and consumers of applying the processes under investigation;

¹ OJ No. C 260 of 29.9.1983, p. 6

5. Considers, with regard to the details of the Commission's proposal, that:
 - contrary to the Commission's view, the question of the presence of mycotoxins must not be excluded from the programme,
 - the HTST process must be considered primarily in relation to its possible applications with regard to basic foodstuffs and those which are in constant demand;
6. Expects all the Community's research programmes, and those in which it participates to be guided by the following principles:
 - the greatest possible avoidance of waste,
 - the rational use of energy,
 - the preservation of vitamins and nutritional value,
 - preference for natural products;
7. Considers that it would be desirable for COST programmes to switch their emphasis back to assisting basic research projects. Research should be focussed on processes of which the applications are of interest to small and medium-sized undertakings. It is hoped that an effort will be made to publish information to further this purpose;
8. Observes that, in spite of the demands incorporated in its opinion on previous COST programmes, the interests of consumers are not yet being adequately protected, and therefore calls for:
 - consumer associations to be involved in the scientific committees set up for these projects by granting them the right to appoint a scientist of their choice to those committees;
 - consumers to be informed by the most appropriate means of any special requirements concerning the domestic storage or preparation of foodstuffs arising from these new processes;
9. Calls on the Commission to take urgent action to harmonize the outline research programme mentioned in the sixth paragraph of section (2) with the present programme and to submit it to Parliament as quickly as possible for discussion;
10. Looks to the Commission to draw up at long last a comprehensive report on all research projects on food and nutrition which have been completed, are in progress or are planned in the medium term, and on the results obtained so far;

11. Wishes the Commission to draw up an opinion concerning its experience of cooperation with third countries and the contribution of the latter to the implementation of COST programmes, with particular reference to the efficacy of such programmes;
12. Instructs its President to forward to the Council and Commission, as Parliament's opinion, the Commission's proposal as voted by Parliament and the corresponding resolution.