

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr IRMER

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the creation of a European basic law on foodstuffs

PE 86.547

The European Parliament,

- A having regard to the variations in legislation on foodstuffs in the Member States of the European Community which form a barrier to the free movement of goods,
 - B having regard to the need to simplify the implementation of existing regulations on foodstuffs,
 - C having regard to the justified interests of consumers in being supplied with good quality foodstuffs at a reasonable price,
 - D whereas it should be possible to implement and monitor all foodstuffs standards without excessive costs,
 - E whereas there is no indication in the present foodstuffs legislation in the EEC, even in existing harmonization measures - in particular in the light of the judgements of the European Court of Justice - that efforts are being made systematically to harmonize rules on competition while at the same time respecting the justified interests of consumers, of industry and of foodstuffs supervisory authorities,
 - F whereas the judgements of the European Court of Justice regarding the free movement of foodstuffs within the EEC constitute a first step towards the harmonization of foodstuffs legislation,
 - G having regard to the fact that - with a few exceptions - the European harmonization of foodstuff law has so far concentrated on settling points of detail rather than on basic standards,
 - H aware that a EUROPEAN BASIC LAW ON FOODSTUFFS is in the interests of consumers, the foodstuffs industry and the foodstuffs supervisory authorities alike,
1. Calls on the Council and Commission immediately to take up the idea of a European basic law on foodstuffs by laying down DEFINITIONS and drawing up provisions on the MANUFACTURING, TRANSPORT, SUPERVISION and CONTROL of foodstuffs and taking into account - wherever necessary - relevant aspects of existing legislation;
 2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the Governments of the Member States.