

# European Communities

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

## Working Documents

1974-1975

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10 March 1975

DOCUMENT 519/74

### Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture

on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 504/74) for a regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No. 804/68 as regards the conditions for the granting of aid for the private storage of Grana-Padano and Parmigiano-Reggiano cheeses

Rapporteur: Mr. M. CIFARELLI

1.2.1



By letter of 14 February 1975 the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty to deliver an opinion on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 504/74) for a regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No. 804/68 as regards the conditions for the granting of aid for the private storage of Grana Padano and Parmigiano-Reggiano cheeses.

The President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Agriculture.

On 6 February 1975 the Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr Cifarelli rapporteur.

It considered this proposal at its meeting of 27 and 28 February 1975 and adopted the motion for a resolution unanimously.

Present: Mr Houdet, chairman; Mr Laban, vice-chairman; Mr Hansen (deputizing for Mr Cifarelli, rapporteur); Mr Baas, Mr Brugger, Mr Espersen, Mr Frehsee, Mr Früh, Mr Howell, Mr Liogier, Mr Martens and Mr Brøndlund Nielsen.



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

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 504/74) for a regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No. 804/68 as regards the conditions for the granting of aid for the private storage of Grana Padano and Parmigiano-Reggiano cheeses

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council<sup>1</sup>;
  - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the Treaty establishing the EEC (Doc. 504/74);
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture (Doc. 519/74);
1. Approves the Commission's proposal;
  2. Invites the Commission to make sure that the reduction of the minimum prescribed age of the two cheeses does not lead to an impairment of their quality;
  3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution and the report of its committee to the Council and Commission of the European Communities.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ No. C 45 of 26 February 1975, p.3

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EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. The common organization of the market in milk and milk products establishes, in addition to a system of intervention for Grana Padano and Parmigiano-Reggiano cheeses, a system of aid for private storage of these two products.
2. The granting of this aid, provided for by Article 8(3) of the regulation on the common organization of the market in milk and milk products<sup>1</sup> is conditional on the conclusion with the intervention body of storage contracts whose duration is limited to six months in the case of Grana Padano and twelve months in the case of Parmigiano-Reggiano. Before aid can be granted, the cheeses must have reached the minimum age necessary for their maturing which, pursuant to the basic regulation, is fixed at present at twelve months for Grana Padano and eighteen months for Parmigiano-Reggiano.
3. Regulation (EEC) No. 1107/68<sup>2</sup> fixes the amount of aid for private storage of these two cheeses. This amount has been, per month and per 100 kilogrammes, 2.31 u.a. from 1 January to 31 March 1974, 3.14 u.a. from 1 April to 6 October 1974 and 3.23 u.a. from 7 October to 31 December 1974. Assuming an average quantity in stock of 4,495 tons per month and an average aid of 3.15 u.a. per ton per month, the overall amount of aid for the eleven months of 1974 comes to approximately 1,560,000 u.a.
4. The Commission's proposal, which has been submitted to the European Parliament, reduces from twelve to nine months the minimum age of Grana Padano and from eighteen to fifteen months that of Parmigiano-Reggiano, so as to take account of the Commission's finding that, as a result of improvements in the quality of milk in cheese-making and in production and ripening techniques, these types of cheese mature more rapidly than in the past. The reason given by the Commission for this measure is therefore quite simply that the minimum age is being adapted to technical progress.
5. The only effect of reducing the age is to bring forward the date from which producers can benefit from aid. Given the limitation imposed by Article 17 of Regulation No. 1107/68 on the period during which aid may be granted, the proposed amendment cannot give rise to additional expenditure.

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<sup>1</sup>OJ L 148 of 20 June 1968, p. 15

<sup>2</sup>OJ L 184 of 29 July 1968, page 29

6. In consequence, the Committee on Agriculture approves the present proposal and recommends its adoption by the European Parliament. It considers it important, however, with a view to protecting consumers, to ensure that the reduction of the ripening period does not affect the quality of the product.

It will be noted that the Commission's explanatory memorandum is extremely brief. The committee would appreciate it if, in future, the Commission could provide more detailed explanations, even where the purpose of its proposals is perfectly clear.

