

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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DOCUMENT 322/75

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Public Health and the Environment

on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 219/75) for a directive amending for the fourth time Directive No. 73/241/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to cocoa and chocolate products intended for human consumption

Rapporteur: Mr K. ALBERTSEN

PE 41.960/fin.

12.4



By letter of 4 August 1975 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 for a directive amending for the fourth time Directive No. 73/241/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to cocoa and chocolate products intended for human consumption.

The President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Public Health and the Environment.

On 2 October 1975 the committee appointed Mr Albertsen rapporteur.

It considered the proposal at the same meeting and unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution and explanatory statement.

Present : Mr Jahn, vice-chairman and acting chairman; Mr Spicer, vice-chairman; Mr Albertsen, rapporteur; Mr Broeks (deputizing for Mr Adams), Lady Fisher of Rednal, Mr Martens, Mr Meintz, Mr W. Müller, Mrs Orth and Mr Springorum.

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The Committee on Public Health and the Environment 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 for a directive amending for the fourth time Directive No. 73/241/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to cocoa and chocolate products intended for human consumption

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council¹
 - having been consulted by the Council (Doc. 219/75),
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Public Health and the Environment (Doc. 322/75),
1. Welcomes the Commission's proposal, whose purpose is to lay down the individual weights for marketing cocoa powder products, as had been provided for in the basic directive;
 2. Urges the Council to take early action on the proposal, in view of the time that has already elapsed since the time-limit set in the basic directive for the fixing of these weights.

¹OJ No. C198, 29.8.1975, p.5.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. This proposed amendment to Directive No. 73/241/EEC lays down the individual weights for marketing cocoa powder products.

Article 6(2) of the basic directive stipulated as follows: 'Within a maximum period of two years from the notification of this Directive the Council, acting on a proposal from the Commission, shall lay down the sole individual weights for marketing the products referred to in Annex I, headings 1.8 to 1.13'¹.

2. The products in question are:

- 1.8 Cocoa, cocoa powder;
- 1.9 Fat-reduced cocoa, fat-reduced cocoa powder;
- 1.10 Sweetened cocoa, sweetened cocoa powder;
- 1.11 Drinking chocolate;
- 1.12 Sweetened fat-reduced cocoa, sweetened fat-reduced cocoa powder;
- 1.13 Fat-reduced drinking chocolate.

3. The Commission's proposal is intended to allow the marketing of the products in question when packaged in units having an individual net weight equal to or more than 100 g and not exceeding 1 kg, in the following individual net weights only: 100 g, 200 g, 250 g, 400 g, 500 g, 750 g and 1 kg.

4. This action increases the transparency of the market and makes it less likely that consumers will be misled.

5. The Committee on Public Health and the Environment supports the Commission's proposal and urges the Council to adopt it as quickly as possible to avoid any further major delay following expiry of the deadline of 16 August 1975 set in the basic directive for the laying down of these weights, in other words two years from the notification of the directive on 16 August 1973.

¹ OJ No. L 228, 16 September 1973, pp. 23-35