

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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DOCUMENT 1-144/80

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 (Doc. 1-695/79) for a Directive amending for the second time Directive 75/726/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning fruit juices and certain similar products

Rapporteur: Mr Stanley JOHNSON

By letter of 17 January 1980 the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 100 of the EEC Treaty, to deliver an opinion on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a directive amending for the second time Directive 75/726/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning fruit juices and certain similar products (Doc. 1-695/79).

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 Agriculture for their opinion.

On 25 January 1980 the Committee appointed Mr Johnson rapporteur.

It considered this proposal at its meeting of 24 and 25 April 1980 when it adopted its report.

Present: Mr Alber, acting chairman; Mrs Weber, vice-chairman; Mr Adam (deputizing for Mr O'Connell), Mr Ceravolo (deputizing for Mr Segre), Mr Forth (deputizing for Miss Hooper), Mrs Fullet, Mr Ghergo, Mrs Maij-Weggen, Mr Mertens, Mr Muntingh, Mr Newton Dunn, Mr Provan (deputizing for Mr Johnson), Mr Remilly, Mrs Schleicher, Mrs Scrivener, Mr Sherlock, Mrs Spaak, Mrs Squarzialupi, and Mr Verroken.

The opinion of the Committee on Agriculture is attached.

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The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection 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 second time Directive 75/726/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning fruit juices and certain similar products

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. 1-695/79),
- having regard to the report of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection as well as to the opinion of the Committee on Agriculture (Doc. 1-144/80),

Approves the Commission's proposal.

¹ OJ No. C20 of 25.1.80, p.4

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. The Committee welcomes the fact that the proposal, in establishing common rules for the production and labelling of fruit juices throughout the Community, will facilitate intra-Community trade with beneficial effects for the consumer.

2. In forbidding the use of artificial acidification agents, but permitting acidification by the addition of a limited quantity of lemon juice, the amended directive will enable the consumer to make a clear distinction between fruit juices and soft drinks.

3. The amended directive will apply the principles of the general directive on the labelling of foodstuffs to the specific sector of fruit juices. The Committee supports such a move and hopes that other specific sectors will be covered as soon as possible.

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Letter from the Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture,
Sir Henry Plumb, to Mr Collins, Chairman of the Committee on the
Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection.

Brussels, 29 February 1980

Dear Mr Chairman,

At its meeting of 27 - 29 February 1980¹, the Committee on Agriculture considered the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a directive amending for the second time Directive 75/726/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning fruit juices and certain similar products.

The intention of the Commission's proposal is to encourage the use of lemon juice, whether concentrated or not, for the acidification of fruit juices and nectars for the purpose of preservation and to bring the rules on the labelling of fruit juices and similar products into conformity with Directive 79/112/EEC.

The Committee on Agriculture considers these provisions to be beneficial to both consumers and producers in the Community in that only a natural product, lemon, is used in the acidification of fruit juices and nectars. Furthermore, harmonization of the labelling laws should encourage the development of the European agri-foodstuffs industry.

The Committee on Agriculture nevertheless invites the Commission to make sure that these provisions are not prejudicial to certain categories of Community producers who might wish to continue producing fruit juices without the addition of lemon juice in view, in particular, of the high natural acidity of their local fruit production.

With this reservation, the Committee on Agriculture approves the Commission's proposal.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd) Sir Henry PLUMB

¹Present: Sir Henry Plumb, chairman; Mr Battersby, Mrs Brookes (deputizing for Mr Howell), Mr Clinton, Mr Colleselli, Mr Dalsass, Mr Gautier, Mr Helms, Mrs Herklotz, Mr Louwes (deputizing for Mr Jürgens), Mr Maffre-Baugé, Mr Maher, Mrs Martin (deputizing for Mr Caillavet), Mr d'Ormesson, Mr Pranchère, Mr Provan, Miss Quin, Mr Vernimmen and Mr Woltjer.

