

# COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(79) 48 final  
Brussels, 16 February 1979

Proposal for a

## COUNCIL DECISION

adopting a concerted action project of the European Economic Community on the effects of thermal processing and distribution on the quality and nutritive value of food

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(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

COM(79) 48 final



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I. Introduction

This proposal is complementary to the Council Decision of 20 February 1978 adopting a concerted action project of the European Economic Community on the effects of processing on the physical properties of foodstuffs (OJ L 54, 25 February 1978).

It is thus the second part of a proposal which originated with the Swedish delegation to COST (European Cooperation in the Field of Scientific and Technical Research, embracing a number of countries which are not members of the European Community) with a view to encouraging the coordination of studies relating to food technology.

Studies on food processing in national and private institutes are already well developed in Europe as a whole. Nutrition studies are mainly university centred and only cover to a limited degree the influence of processing on the nutritive value of food. Some scientific work is undertaken by some major food processors, but this mainly covers specific problems of commercial importance to the company concerned.

This concerted action project, which is designed to coordinate activities in this area, should provide both the framework and the incentive needed for a much greater degree of cooperation than exists at present.

The proposal is limited in principle to the effects of processing and distribution on the quality and nutritive value of food and priority is given to freezing and preservation by heat treatment.

The results will help to solve some major problems concerning the present food system, i.e.:

- (a) quality of processed and mass-distributed products;
- (b) the nutritive value of foodstuffs;
- (c) the presence in foods of substances that are believed to be inherently toxic for the consumer.

These three matters are of considerable concern to consumers generally. It is therefore proposed that the effect on quality and nutritive value of heat treatment be studied and compared with that of other forms of processing. The results will be communicated to the general public and to legislators. The purpose is not just to make an inventory of the effects of present practice but to institute an investigation into the improvement of processing and methods of distribution in order to maximize both quality and nutritive value.

## II. Contents of the Programme

A list of areas for coordination was suggested, priority being given to the various subjects where, in the opinion of the experts:

1. International collaboration could be very beneficial.
2. Such collaboration would be most likely to give particularly useful results to food processors thus enabling them to maintain and improve the quality and nutritive value of their products.
3. Such collaboration would lead to results which would allow consumers to assess the quality and nutritive value of processed foods.

In this connection it is very important to emphasize the common thread that runs through all the subjects selected; i.e. heat treatment. This coordination will give results which are directly or indirectly applicable to other topics relating to other foods and other forms of processing.

The list of topics suggested is as follows:

1. Milk products
  - 1.1 Refrigeration
  - 1.2 Coagulation of milk proteins by heat treatment
  - 1.3 Analytical methodology including predictive tests
2. Fruit and vegetables
  - 2.1 Effects of heat treatment

3. Cereals

- 3.1 Non-traditional heat treatment
- 3.2 Effects of heat treatment on the biopolymers of cereals, especially with respect to lipid, starch and protein interreaction
- 3.3 Effects of freezing and thawing on the quality of cereal-based foods

4. Fish

- 4.1 Heat treatment in relation to under-utilized species and utilization of waste material
- 4.2 Heat treatment and microbiological safety

5. Meat

- 5.1 Curing ingredients and their interaction in pasteurized and canned products
- 5.2 Chilling and freezing of meat
- 5.3 Heat-treatment processes and interactions with vegetable matter
- 5.4 Thawing of meat

6. Nutrition

- 6.1 Heat-treatment processes and protein quality
- 6.2 Heat treatment and polyunsaturated fats
- 6.3 Nutritional consequences of the cooking of food

III. Duration of the programme

It is proposed that the programme should cover a three-year period.

IV. Implementation of the programme

The programme is to be implemented as concerted action. In accordance with the conclusions adopted by the Council on 18th July 1978 dealing European Cooperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research COST, a concertation will take place between the community action and the COST states.

V. Total cost

It is estimated that the total amount spent by all the participating countries, including non-member States will be 12 million units

of account over a three-year period. This figure can only be an estimated order of magnitude and is based on estimates received from government experts as to the total cost of current national research projects.

Research institutes in the various member countries of the European Community have indicated that they are willing to participate in the study of the topics listed above.

The cost of coordination to be borne by the Budget of the European Communities is estimated at 287 600 european units of account over a three-year period.



Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION

adopting a concerted action project of the European Economic Community on the effects of thermal processing and distribution on the quality and nutritive value of food

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THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 235 thereof;

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission;

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament;

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee;

Whereas, pursuant to Article 2 of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, the Community has the task of promoting throughout the Community the harmonious development of economic activities, continuous and balanced expansion and a more rapid raising of the standard of living;

Whereas the Council emphasized in its Resolution of 14 January 1974 on an initial outline programme of the European Communities in the field of science and technology<sup>1</sup> that appropriate use should be made of the entire range of available ways and means in an effort to ensure maximum effectiveness; whereas these ways and means include taking concerted action and, whenever it proves desirable, collaborating with non-member States, especially European States;

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<sup>1</sup>OJ No C 7 29.1.1974, p.6.

Whereas the Council, in its Resolution of 14 January 1974 on the coordination of national policies and the definition of projects of interest to the Community in the field of science and technology<sup>2</sup>, assigned this task to the Community institutions, with the assistance of the Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST);

Whereas a programme of research into food technology was proposed by the Swedish delegation as part of European Cooperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research (COST); whereas the Council, in its Decision of 16 June 1975, recognized the Community's interest in such a programme;

Whereas the Council Decision 78/177/EEC of 20 February 1978 adopted a concerted action project of the European Economic Community on the effect of processing on the physical properties of food<sup>3</sup>;

Whereas a concerted action project on Community research into food technology is likely to help to achieve the abovementioned objectives and in particular more economic use of national resources;

Whereas the Member States intend, as part of the rules and procedures applicable to their national programmes, to carry out the research described in Annex A and are prepared to integrate it into a process of coordination at Community level over a period of three years;

Whereas the performance of the research described in Annex A calls for a financial outlay of about 8 million European units of account in the participating Member States;

Whereas the Community is empowered to conclude agreements with non-member States; whereas the Council agreed on 18 July 1978 upon certain rules cooperation within the COST framework;

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<sup>2</sup> OJ No C 7 29.1.1974, p.2.

<sup>3</sup> OJ No L 54 25.2.1978, p.25.

Whereas the Treaty does not provide the powers necessary for this purpose;

Whereas CREST has given its opinion on the Commission proposal,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The Community shall implement for a period of three years a concerted action project dealing with the effects of thermal processing and distribution on the quality and nutritive value of food.

This project shall consist in coordinating at Community level the research specified in Annex A, which shall form part of the national research programmes of the Member States.

Article 2

The Commission shall be responsible for such coordination.

Article 3

It is estimated that the overall requirements for the total period covered by the programme will be 287 000 EUA and a staff of one, the European unit of account being defined in Article 10 of the Financial Regulation of 21 December 1977. These estimates are for guidance only.

Article 4

In order to facilitate the execution of the project a Committee for concerted action on the effects of thermal processing and distribution on the quality and nutritive value of food (hereinafter called "the Committee") shall be established. A project leader shall be appointed by the Commission by agreement with the Committee. He shall inter alia assist the Commission in its task of coordination.

The terms of reference and composition of the Committee are laid down in Annex B.

The Committee shall draw up its own rules of procedure.

A secretariat for the Committee shall be provided by the Commission.

Article 5

- (a) In accordance with a procedure which shall be laid down by the Commission by agreement with the Committee, the participating States shall regularly exchange all relevant information concerning the performance of the research forming the subject of the concerted action project.

They shall in addition provide the Commission with information relating to relevant research planned or performed by bodies which are not under their authority.

Such information shall be treated as confidential if the Member State which communicates it so requests.

- (b) The Commission shall draw up annual progress reports on the basis of the information provided and shall forward them to the Member States.
- (c) At the end of the coordination period, the Commission shall, by agreement with the Committee, send to the Member States and to the European Parliament a report on the performance and result of the project. The Commission shall publish such report six months after it has been sent to the Member States, except where a Member State objects. In this event, the report shall be distributed upon request only to the institutions and undertakings working on research which justifies access to the results of the research under the Community concerted action project. The Commission may make arrangements to ensure that this report remains confidential and is not disclosed to third parties.

Article 6

1. Pursuant to Article 228 of the Treaty, the Community may conclude agreements with non-Member States involved in European Cooperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research (COST) with a view to ensuring coordination between the Community concerted action project referred to in Article 1 and the relevant programmes of such COST States.
2. The Commission is hereby authorized to negotiate the agreement referred to in the preceding paragraph in accordance with conclusions adopted by the Council on 18 July 1978 on European Cooperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research (COST).

Article 7

This Decision shall be published in the Official Journal of the European Communities. It shall take effect on the day of its publication.

Done at

For the Council

The President



ANNEX B

Annex B to the draft Council decision adopting a concerted action project in the field of the quality and nutritive value of food

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Terms of reference and composition of the Committee for concerted action on the quality and nutritive value of food

1. The Committee shall:

1.1 contribute to the optimum implementation of the project by giving its opinion on all aspects of its progress;

1.2 evaluate the results and draw conclusions regarding their application;

1.3 be responsible for the exchange of information provided for in Article 5(a);

1.4 monitor the progress of national research work carried out in the sector in which the concerted action project lies, in particular by keeping abreast of scientific and technical developments likely to influence its accomplishment;

1.5 suggest guidelines to the project leader;

1.6 have the right to set up a subcommittee, in respect of each of the topics covered as defined in Annex A, to ensure that the programme is properly implemented.

2. The reports and the opinions of the Committee shall be communicated to the Commission and the participating Member States. The Commission shall forward these opinions to CREST and to the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR).

3. The Committee shall consist of the project leader and the persons responsible for coordinating the national programmes appointed by the participating States.

Members may, for the duration of the concerted action project, be accompanied by experts, subject to a maximum of two experts per participating States. A Member's term of office shall be terminated prematurely by his death or resignation or if the Member State which appointed him requests that he be replaced. His successor shall be appointed for the unexpired remainder of the original term.

FINANCIAL RECORD

drawn up for the Budget for financial year 1979

1. BUDGET HEADING CONCERNED: Item 3371 in Chapter 33
2. TITLE OF THE OPERATION: EEC multiannual R&D programme for a concerted action project on the effects of thermal processing and distribution on the quality and nutritive value of food.
3. LEGAL BASIS: Article 235 of the EEC Treaty  
Council Decision of .....

4. DESCRIPTION, OBJECTIVE(S) AND JUSTIFICATION OF THE OPERATION

4.1 DESCRIPTION

The programme presented is Part Two of a wider research programme in the field of food technology, Part One of which - concerning the physical properties of foods - was adopted by the Council on 20 February 1978 (OJ L 54, 25 February 1978). This second part concerns the quality and nutritive value of food.

4.2 OBJECTIVES

To enable the Community to carry out the task assigned to it by Article 2 of the EEC Treaty of promoting the harmonious development of economic activities, continuous and balanced expansion, and a more rapid raising of the standard of living, in particular by providing scientific and technical assistance in securing better knowledge of the effects of the industrial techniques involved in production and distribution on the characteristics of foodstuffs, with a view to improving and controlling their quality.

- the optimum use of, and prospecting for, new outlets for agricultural produce;



- the development of the food industry and the distributive trades in line with the Community's other policies, particularly those concerning consumers and farmers.

#### 4.3 JUSTIFICATION

The direct objective of the proposed research is to satisfy the needs of the food industry, the distributive trades, the equipment manufacturers serving them, also specialist research centres, and ultimately to improve the value and quality of the food offered to the consumer.

Coordination of research in this field is necessary at Community level in order to increase its effectiveness.

### 5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE OPERATION (in EUA)

#### 5.0 EXPENDITURE IMPLICATIONS

5.0.0 <u>Total cost throughout the planned duration</u>	12 287 600 u.a.
5.0.0.0 Cost to the Budget of the Communities	287 600 u.a.
5.0.0.1 Cost to the national authorities	12 000 000 u.a.
5.0.0.2 Cost to other sectors at national level	

#### 5.0.1 Multiannual schedule for appropriations

Appropriations for commitment

in u.a.

	1979	1980	1981
Staff	24 000	25 000	27 600
Administrative expenditure	35 000	37 000	40 000
Contracts	31 000	33 000	35 000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>90 000</b>	<b>95 000</b>	<b>102 600</b>

Appropriations for payment

in u.s.d.

	1979	1980	1981
Staff	24 000	25 000	27 600
Administrative expenditure	35 000	37 000	40 000
Contracts	31 000	33 000	35 000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>90 000</b>	<b>95 000</b>	<b>102 600</b>

5.0.2 Method of calculation

(a) Staff expenditure

The staff needed for this programme is estimated at one category C servant.

Apart from this staff member, the calculations take account of the parameters as laid down for the drawing up of the preliminary draft Budget for the 1979 financial year. Solely a variation in salary weightings has been taken into account in order to allow for movements in general price levels in the Community.

(b) Administrative expenditure

This covers mission expenses, the costs of organizing meetings (one concerted action committee, three sub-committees), the cost of convening experts and such expenditure as may prove necessary in special cases.

(c) Expenditure under contracts

They cover all the expenditure inherent in the contract, together with funds for the project leader, his secretarial staff, the meetings of research workers engaged in the project and (short term) staff exchanges.

(d) Multianual estimates

The rates selected for the calculation of the estimates are as follows: 1980: 1.07; 1981: 1.13; 1982: 1.20.

5.1 EFFECT ON RESOURCES

Community tax on officials' salaries.

Officials' contributions to the pension scheme.

6. FINANCING

6.0 Possible financing by means of appropriations entered under the relevant chapter of the current Budget.

6.1 Possible financing by transfer between chapters of the current Budget.

6.2 Need for a supplementary Budget.

6.3 Appropriation(s) to be entered in future Budget(s).

